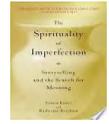


SPIRITUALITY OF IMPERFECTION: A VERY QUICK TUNE UP LENT IS A REMINDER: TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND TURN TOWARD THE GOSPEL



HOSEA: "Keep Coming Back to the Lord: Long have I waited for Your coming home to me, And living deeply our new life"-

Prayer: Amazing grace how sweet the sound, That saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now I'm found. Was blind but now I see. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved. How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

Bodily and Spiritual Imperfections? *St Therese of Lisieux: Rob Komosa and the broken neck boys taught be lessons: Cure seeks change at the level of the problem. Healing is a change of perception which can only happen from the depth of the divine self and it comes as gift, as grace. It is not necessarily a change in the circumstance (the problem) Rather, healing requires a change in focus away from a view that demands changing of the circumstance or that the circumstance be removed. Healing requires a change in perspective that embraces the circumstance from another inner source.*

+Spirituality is a lot like health. *We all have health; we may have good health or poor health, but it's something we can't avoid having. The same is true of spirituality; every human being is a spiritual being. The questions not whether we 'have spirituality' but whether the spirituality we have is a negative one that leads to isolation and self-destruction or one that is more positive and life-giving. A positive spirituality leads us to the fullness of ourselves as God-related-human beings.*

"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." Mathew 11:28-30

+Philip Simmons (Learning to Fall-Imperfect Life Wisdom) says, Whereas our culture views falling as failure and defeat, Simmons reframes it as a spiritual art, deepening into life that opens us to the grace that is always nearby. (Resilience is learned as we fall and rise again and again as "toddlers"—just part of the journey. Love it. Many Chapters in your book?)

+ Baseball teaches us ... how to deal with failure. We learn at a very young age that failure is the norm in baseball and, precisely because we have failed, we hold in high regard those who fail less often – those who hit safely in one out of three chances become star players. I also find it fascinating that baseball, alone in sports, considers errors to be part of the game, part of its rigorous truth. T. Vincent, Jr., former Major League Baseball Commissioner

+Authors Ernest Kurtz and Katherine Ketcham describe the spirituality of imperfection as “a spirituality of not having all the answers, stories convey the mystery and the miracle — the adventure — of being alive.” +We begin with a theology of wholeness, belonging, crated and sent and our journey Without imperfection’s ‘gap between intentions and results,’ there would be no *story*.

+ Spirituality begins with the acceptance that our fractured being, our imperfection, simply *is*: There is no one to ‘blame’ for our errors — neither ourselves nor anyone nor anything else. Spirituality helps us **first to see**, and then to **understand**, and eventually to **accept** the imperfection that lies at the very core of our human be-ing. Spirituality accepts that ‘If a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly.’

+The spirituality of imperfection begins with the recognition that trying to be perfect is the most tragic human mistake.....+Here is a quote from the first chapter: "A spirituality of imperfection suggests that spirituality's first step involves facing self squarely, seeing one's self as one is: mixed-up, paradoxical, incomplete and imperfect. Flawedness is the first fact about human beings. And paradoxically, in that imperfect foundation we find not despair but joy. For it is only within the reality of our imperfection that we can find the peace and serenity we crave."+Spirituality is not the evasion of consequences or errors, but rather learning how to live with them.+So, to be a disciple of Christ does not mean that you have to be perfect. In fact, your imperfection, your addictions, your vices, your failures, and your disappointments are precisely what will set you up for spiritual advancement, if you allow. And maybe God is calling you closer to Him through them. Being content with your imperfection can lead to great peace, which will naturally lead you closer to God. Of course we should strive toward the best version of ourselves, but self-deprecation, over-scrupulosity, and fear of being imperfect can spiral quickly out of control.

PROBES FOR LATER REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION-HOMEWORK?

1. What does imperfection have to do with Lent for you?
2. Describe a time when you felt forgiven by God's grace? And What did you do with it?
3. Can you write a book about your successes and failures with the same kind of honesty for each? and tell a true story of how failures helped you grow and be more compassionate? And more like Jesus?

LIGHTER FARE FOR A ONE-HOUR REFLECTION-FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

Turn away from sin means dealing with reconciling one's imperfections.

Buzz:

1. What does it mean to turn away from my own version of what I consider sin?
2. What does it take to reconcile and decide to get into action to deal with imperfections?
3. Look at these ideas for seeing if you are ready to come to terms with imperfections (sin) and take action.

+A. ACCEPT THAT WE ARE HUMAN AND HUMANS. WHAT CAN I PINPOINT NEEDS WORK ON MY PART?

+B. USE YOUR WEAKNESSES AS STRENGTHS.

We are a complete package: good stuff and some stuff that needs attention and maybe even be made into a priority.
How can I transform a weakness and a challenge to my purity of soul and convert it to a strength?

+C. CHOOSE A DIRECTION.

You and God can work on the new direction, the new plan for transformation. What is a 1,2,3 approach to get the job done in a smart way?