

Loving Our Way to Heaven

a quick view of personal growth in Love

Everyone is well equipped for loving, but people cripple themselves in one way or another when they react fearfully to the requirements of love as they see them. Misunderstanding love and its demands, they focus on the challenges and potential failures of love, and consider love and sacrifice as a personal loss, rather than seeing loving in its totality, with its sacrifices *and* fulfillments.

The fact is, loving is the *only* thing that actually produces real, lasting fulfillment. Only loving opens the heart, builds trust, and unveils the sacred treasures in the beloved's heart and your own. Loving creates true understanding, increases our compassion, expresses our true knowing heart, and satisfies us on a deeply human level. Loving is the lover's fulfillment, the heart's fulfillment. It disburdens us of all guilt and shame. It unites us with life. But our priority on self-gain and self-protection distorts our view of love, emphasizing its "dangers" and building a defense against its demands. Everyone has done this, and everyone must escape it—this tendency to buy the propaganda of selfish mind.

When we are in touch with our heart, we naturally feel drawn by the dreams, desires, and obligations of love. We hear the call of love—home calling us back home—and we want to respond to it. To love and give is a joy so natural to the human heart.

But sadly, since most people are undecided about whether or not they want to release their self-driven life, they resist the natural absorption into a life of love and all it entails—its real trials and delights—and opt instead to stay in a deadened state in which they are not so moved to think, to feel, to consider rightly and really what is best for all, all the time. They elect to stay in a more childish position, hoping to avoid the obligations of love.

See, when we get in touch with our own innately bright mind, our loving heart, and our compassion for others, it pushes us to change wholly, leaving nothing in the basic premise of our lives the same. That change is welcome to everyone's heart, it resonates profoundly with all that we hold valuable—and all we truly *are*.

But we don't welcome that change if we cling to our habitual purposes, and the accompanying voices, mental patterns, and ideas that support a selfishly oriented style of living. In order to honestly accept and wholeheartedly embrace the option of a truly loving life, we need to let go of all that. Only then are we free to give all our heart, well-being, energy, time, and life force to a life of loving.

People kick and fuss in resistance to growing up. A person grows in strength, understanding, and fullness, and then at a certain point they become very aware of their higher responsibilities, their connection with all of life, and their own heart's requirement to take care of all of life—the call to love. If they are not prepared to answer love's call with *natural*

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enthusiasm for the prospects of a loving life, they will plunge off that high place of clear vision down to painful depths of unconsciousness, and go back to feeling alienated from themselves, others, and all of life. From that alienated position, one's responsibilities seem fewer, and less compelling.

Nonetheless, in reality, all children love to grow. When they see the freedoms and possibilities inherent in every new opportunity, in learning to be an effective, contributing member of society, they feel excited, empowered. Considering all the good that they want to do for their loved ones, they are motivated. They feel encouraged, recognizing their inherent talents and latent abilities, which need only conscious, loving *practice* to gain mastery.

When life education is embraced by our own true heart with its gregarious inspiration to serve, we move quickly from the desire to remain a child into the desire to fulfill our loved ones responsibly. This is natural evolution. It is the natural response and responsibility of the heart of every child of God.

As we grow, we become more and more unified with God, and also more compassionately understanding of others. We identify with all the setbacks, mindsets, choices, and perceived limitations of those behind us, in places we've been and moved beyond. We also have an ever-growing respect and love for those ahead of us who embody the values of the heart. Such is the nature of growth.

As we step into our larger shoes and love, learn, and grow, our true reverence grows, and our relationship with God grows. It deepens into a true love. As we recognize our own ability, and see the humanity's ability to fulfill each other, we come to know God. We become reverent toward God with increasing vulnerability and heart-touched appreciation for the perfection God instilled in each of us and the inherent talent we possess as individuals, and as groups, to fulfill the hearts and needs all around. And, as we come to know Him by our true recognition of His creation, we love Him more. We become more receptive to Him, and better able to serve His purposes, which we love and identify with profoundly.

But for most, there is a very long childhood, because of the resistance to stepping into the next levels of love, life, and responsibility. People tell themselves a lot of lies that serve to stunt the natural growth into adulthood, and inhibit the natural enthusiasm for the next step.

Natural, speedy growth comes with challenges, inspirations, revelations, setbacks, learning curves—all kinds of things—and it is full of life. If you look at any of those who have embraced a life of love, you see this. It is not stagnant, and it is not overly painful. It is delightful, beautifully deepening, challenging, inspiring, and unifying with One and all. ☀

May we all embrace the life of love we were born for.