

MOVING SPIRIT

July, 2000

Eskaton Village Community Church

Pastor's Parcel

Dennis the Menace's question in the cartoon is legitimate. We need to know if we are complete when we start out in life, or is there something missing. We may begin our earthly journey as innocent little babies, but we are far from "assembled." We may try to "put ourselves together" and make sense of our existence here on earth. Often we follow the assembly patterns that seem normal to our social environment. Yet we don't always feel complete.

The Word of God tells us why we may feel this way. In Ephesians 4:13, we see that God wants to work with us "until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ." God wants us to find our completeness by reaching full maturity in Christ.

During the long season of the Church year called Pentecost, the emphasis is on the Person and work of the Holy Spirit. He is the One who empowers us to be all we can be as believers. Everyone needs to experience not only salvation by faith in Jesus Christ, but also sanctification through being filled with the Holy Spirit. This is where power for our Christian



spiritual growth comes from.*

As a pastor, I hope for, pray for and preach for this "completeness" in Christ for all who need it. God is not finished with us yet. He is still putting us together by the power of the Holy Spirit.

--Pastor David

*(be sure to read Past Pathways)

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Personal Pulpit

20 Ways to Waken your Quiet Time

1. Write a letter to God, put it away somewhere, and read it later.
2. Write out a Scripture, personalizing it by putting your name into it.

3. Go on a praise-walk, praising God for the beauty of His world.
4. Buy a Bible to underline and write in your comments as you read through it.
5. Spend an entire time with God just singing with hymns and choruses.
6. Dance before the Lord to some joyous music (it's Scriptural, 2 Samuel 6:14).
7. Write down a list of your sins, mark 1 John 1:9 over each one, then destroy it.
8. Write a list, using thought categories from Phil. 4:8, and post it visibly.
9. Pray in a posture you don't normally use: standing, face up, hands raised, etc.
10. Read a different translation of the Bible, one you're not used to.
11. Praise Jesus from A to Z (examples: "Jesus, You're amazing!...beautiful!")
12. Write out your prayers to Jesus, or begin making a book of your prayers.
13. Keep a list your needs; beside each one, write Bible verses you find to meet them.
14. Pray over sermon notes you took on Sunday (it improves your listening next time, too...)
15. Read slowly through and meditate on one of your favorite hymns.
16. Spend time fasting (from meals, the media, the phone, etc.) just to spend it with God.
17. Begin a journal or spiritual diary (instead of "Dear Diary," write "Dear Jesus,").
18. Write a description of your walk with God from the view of someone else viewing you.
19. Learn by heart a Bible prayer to pray out loud (like Mary's in Luke 1:46ff).
20. Make a list of theological questions

you'd like answered. Research them one at a time. --*Anonymous*

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Pithy Pieces

Every problem we face can take us one step away from God or one step closer.

--John Sherril

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The World Needs...

A little more kindness
and a little less creed,
A little more giving
and a little less greed;
A little more smile
and a little less frown,
A little less kicking
a man when he's down;
A little more "we"
and a little less "I,"
A little more laugh
and a little less cry;
A few more flower
s on the pathway of life,
And fewer on graves
at the end of the strife.

--*author unknown*

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Time is...

too slow for those who wait,
too swift for those who fear,
too long for those who grieve,
too short for those who rejoice,
But for those who love--
Time is eternity.

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People are like stained-glass windows: they sparkle like crystal in the sun, but when darkness falls, they continue to shine only if there's a light from within.

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There's an open gate at the end of the road,
Through which each must go alone,
And there in the light we cannot see
Our Father claims his own;
Beyond the gate, your loved one
Finds happiness and rest,
And there is comfort in the thought
That a loving God knows best.
Nothing dries sooner than a tear.

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Willful waste makes woeful want,
And I may live to say,
"Oh! How I wish I had the bread
That once I threw away!"

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So many gentle friends are near,
One can scarcely see,
I should never feel alone
Wherever I may be.

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Hide not your talents:
For use they were made!
What's a sundial in the shade?

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Praise's Portion

So I think I know the secret
Learned from many a troubled way.
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

--Ralph Cushman

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Oh death, where is your sting?
Oh Hades, where is your victory?
Christ is risen, and you are laid low;
Christ is risen, and the demons are struck
down;
Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice;

Christ is risen, and the life is abundant
and free;

Christ is risen, and there are no dead left
in the tombs.

--John Chrysostom (347-407 AD)

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Prayer's Priority

As a physician, I have seen men, after
all other therapy has failed, lifted out of
disease and melancholy by the serene
effort of prayer. It is the only power in
the world that seems to overcome the
so-called "laws of nature"; the occasions
on which prayer has dramatically done
this have been termed "miracles". But a
constant, quieter miracle takes place
hourly in the hearts of men and women
who have discovered that prayer
supplies them with a steady flow of
sustaining power in their daily lives.

-- Alexis Carrel (1873-1944)

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[A prayer given by the late Rev. Jack Gunn on
Nov. 22, 1998 in the Eskaton Village dining
room for the 90th birthday of his friend, the late
Stanley Johnson.]

O God our Father, from Whom we come
unto Whom we return and in Whom we
live and move and have our being; we
praise Thee for the good gift of life; for
its friendships and fellowships. We
thank Thee for giving the one we honor,
Stanley Johnson, 90 years of life and
living!!! And we ask, if it's your will,
that he continues his journey through life
and that he will have blessed and happy
years ahead of him. Now bless him and
all of us here this evening, our meeting,
the food, and fellowship, to cheer our

souls . . . for these and all Your gifts, O
God, make us truly thankful, through
Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Poetry's Place

Equipment

Figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You've all the greatest of men have had,
Two arms, two hands, two legs, two
eyes,
And a brain to use, if you would be wise.
With this equipment they all began.
Start at the top and say "I can."
Look them over, the wise and the great.
They take their food from a common
plate,
And similar knives and forks they use,
With similar laces they tie their shoes.
The world considers them brave and
smart,
But you've all they had when they made
their start.
You can triumph and come to skill,
You can be great if you only will.
You're well equipped for what fight you
choose,
You have legs and arms and a brain to
use,
And the man who has risen great deeds
to do
Began his life with no more than you.
You are the handicap you must face,
You are the one must choose your place,
You must say where you want to go,
How much you will study the truth to
know.
God has equipped you for life, but He
Lets you decide what you want to be.
Courage must come from the soul within.

The man must furnish the will to win.
So figure it out for yourself, my lad,
You were born with all that the greatest
have had,

With your equipment they all began.
Get hold yourself and say "I can."

-- Edgar Guest

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Pearls of Prudence

Of all the sayings in the world
The one to see you through
Is never trouble trouble
Till trouble troubles you.

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Patience is a virtue,
Virtue is a grace,
Both put together
Make a very pretty face.

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One, two, what ever you do.
Start it well and carry it through.
Say well and do well
End with one letter.
Say well is good,
Do well is better.

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Every man should have a fair sized
cemetery in which to bury the faults of
his friends.

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The only way to have a friend is to be
one.

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If you tell the truth, you don't have to
remember what you have said.

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God must have love the common
people; He made so many of them.

--Lincoln

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One secret of happiness is not in doing what one likes, but in liking what one has to do. --James Barrie

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There may be splendor is in the latter of success, but you don't notice them unless you're sliding down.

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Vacant lots track rubbish; so do vacant minds.

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Don't give away all your good advice. Save a little for yourself.

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Our chief aim in life is to find someone who will make us do our best.

--Emerson

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Pleasurable Pastime

My Prayer As I Grow Older

Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make the thoughtful but not moody; help full but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all... but Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Keep my mind from the recital of endless details... give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains, they are increasing, and love of reversing them is becoming sweeter is the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others, but help me to enjoy them with patience. I dare not ask for improved

memory but a growing humility and lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memory of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places and talents in unexpected people. Give me the grace to tell them so. -- *author unknown*

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Precious Principles

God help us to live slowly,
To move simply,
To look softly,
To allow emptiness,
To let the heart create for us. Amen.

--from *The Prayer Tree*

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The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.

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Pray as the if everything depended on God, and work is every depended on man. --William Arthur Ward

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One effective way to get your spirits lifted is to arrange for periodic times of spiritual fellowship -- to thank and talk and pray with a few people who, like yourself, are seeking a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. This practice will bring you one of the most glorious experiences in life. You will be aware that Jesus Christ is in the midst of such a group and the warmth and the uplifting this knowledge will bring to

your heart is impossible to describe. ---
Norman Vincent Peale.

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Blessed are they who have the gift of making friends, for is one of God's best gifts. It involves many things, but above all, the power of getting out of one's self and appreciating whatever is noble and loving in another.

-- Thomas Hughes

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Only "at a primitive level of development" can the threat of hell elicit good moral choices. A spiritually mature person is motivated to "be holy because I the Lord your God am holy" (Lev. 19:2). Heaven is thrown in as a bonus for good behavior. For the spiritually immature, the old aphorism still rings true: Getting to heaven by backing away from hell is a hell of a way to get heaven.

-- Father John Hampsch

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If you want to be happy,
Begin where you are,
Don't wait for some rapture
That's future and far.
Begin to be joyous, begin to be glad,
And soon you'll forget
That you ever were sad.

(from Midge Childs)

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Past Pathways

[In 1847, Rev. D.S. King wrote *The Blessing of Perfect Love*, a book full of stories of people experiencing a deeper work in the Holy Spirit. This is an excerpt of one of those stories....]

On Monday morning he rose early, and wrapping his cloak about him, continued, until breakfast time, to plead for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Hastily partaking of a slight repast, he returned to his chamber and fell upon his knees. While entreating God for a clean heart, his mind was led to contemplate "the image of Christ" as the single object of desire. To be Christ-like -- to possess "all the mind that was in" the blessed Savior, seemed to embrace all good; and this became the burden of his earnest prayer.

"And why do you not take his image?" was suggested to him; "for he has taken yours. Look at the crucified Lamb. From his bleeding feet, and hands, and heart -- from his pale features, and from every convulsed member, as from a thousand mirrors, do you not catch the reflection of your own vile image destroyed by the fall? Why does the blessed Jesus there hang and bleed, 'his visage so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men?' Is it for himself? No -- O no! He is innocent -- immaculate. It is for me. There, on the cross, he bears my sin, and shame, and weakness, and misery, and death. And why does he bear them? To give me, in their stead, his purity, and honor, and strength, and bliss, and life. Why then not take his image? Give him your sin, and take his purity. Give him your shame, and take his honor. Give him your helplessness, and take his strength. Give him your misery, and take his bliss. Give him your death, and take his life

everlasting. Nay, yours he already has.
There they are, bruising him and putting
him to grief! Nothing remains but that
you take his in exchange. Make haste!

Now -- just now, he freely offers you
all, and urges all upon your instant
acceptance."