

Pathwork Lecture 254: Surrender

1996 Edition, Original Given October 18, 1978

This lecture is given in an **expanded poetic format**, what I call a **Devotional Format** of the lecture, and in that sense this is **my interpretation** of the **intent** of the lecture. I may have interpreted portions differently from you, and I ask you to ponder the words for your own interpretation. I did this Devotional Format so I can take the words into my heart, phrase by phrase, much as I would in reading poetry – that is, **devotionally**.

The blessings to me in developing this format have been truly profound, and my wish is that this Devotional Format will be a blessing to others. **I invite you to slowly read and ponder this format of the text – with an open heart to experience the Guide’s Presence and Love emerging from among the words such that the wisdom comes to LIVE you.**

For clarity: The **original text** is in **bold and italicized**. [My adds of commentary/clarification/interpretation are in brackets, italicized, and not bolded.] To learn more of my Devotional Format and see the lectures I have done in this way, go to <https://www.garyvollbracht.com/pathwork-lectures/pathwork-lectures-devotional-format/>

Gary Vollbracht

¶	Content
03	<p><i>My beloved friends, the light of the Eternal One streams as a great blessing • to all of you, and • to all your endeavors that are sanctified by your commitment to serve • God and • His magnificent evolutionary plan.</i></p>
04	<p><i>The hand of God can be recognized in many earthly manifestations.</i></p> <p><i>His presence can be keenly felt and so can His absence [i.e., so can His absence be keenly felt] when you block it out [i.e., when YOU block His presence out].</i></p>

by Eva Broch Pierrakos

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Edited by Judith and John Saly; Devotional Version Posted 12/7/14; Rev 2/28/18

*One of the
earthly manifestations
in which the divine creativity
of the Eternal Spirit
can always be seen
is
nature.*

*You cannot help but
marvel at the*

- wisdom and*
- foresight*

*manifest in
the smallest details
designed to*

- protect,*
- sustain and*
- maintain*

each species.

- The abundance,*
- the beauty and*
- the richness*

*that all created entities
manifest
proclaim*

- clearly and*
- eloquently*

*that only
the greatest of all imaginable minds
could have devised
the many systems
that maintain
life on earth.*

05

*It also has become clear
to many human beings
that the balance of nature
is being disturbed
through humanity's*

- thoughtlessness or*
- greed.*

*The recent
growth of awareness
in this area [i.e., the growth in awareness of the abundance, richness
and beauty in nature]
is most important.*

But there is also

- an aspect of nature
that seems
contradictory to
divine love,*
- an aspect
that seems
cruel.*

Nature's destructive forces,

- the storms,*
- the floods and*
- the earthquakes*

*do exist,
but seen from another angle,
they are only
the necessary crises
every entity must go through
to reestablish
inner harmony
with divine law.*

06

*Other manifestations of
nature's cruelty
fall into a different category.*

*For example,
one species
may depend on
another
to maintain its very life,
surviving at the expense of the other,
hence*

- predators*
- and*
- victims.*

*Although
the victims
are always equipped with
specific defenses
so that
the individual animal
can have
what you may call
a sporting chance,*

*on a grand scale
• one species
serves to sustain
• the other.*

*These conditions
contribute to
maintaining
an overall balance in nature.*

*Yet
one animal
killing
another
for its nourishment
• appears cruel and
• seems to deny
God's presence.*

*It is also true
that animals
can never indulge in
the useless
• cruelty and
• destructiveness
which human beings
are capable of.*

*It is precisely
humanity's more evolved consciousness
that can always
choose
to channel human action
into the direction of
• good
or
• evil.*

	<p><i>Yet it does seem, and in a sense is, tragic that an animal needs to endure</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• panic and</i><i>• pain</i> <p><i>in order to serve the total life process.</i></p>
07	<p><i>I want you now to understand that this manifestation in nature [i.e., this manifestation that an animal needs to endure panic and pain in order to serve the total life process] reflects precisely humanity's overall state of consciousness which is dualistic, being a combination of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• good</i><i>and</i><i>• evil.</i> <p><i>Humanity's beliefs are always characterized by this polarity [i.e., this dualistic polarity of good and evil].</i></p> <p><i>Since the totality of human beliefs creates your environment, the earth sphere [i.e., the earth sphere, being thus created in this environment of the totality of these dualistic good-and-evil human beliefs] reflects this polarity exactly [i.e., reflects this dualistic polarity of good and evil exactly].</i></p> <p><i>Its presence [i.e., The presence of this earth-sphere's dualistic good-and-evil polarity] can be observed in the most remote manifestations which on the surface appear to have nothing whatever to do with humanity's state of consciousness.</i></p>

While these manifestations [i.e., While these manifestations of this earth-sphere's good-and-evil polarity]

*appear to be given
as facts
created independently
of human*

- beliefs,*
- attitudes,*
- feelings and*
- intentions,*

*in reality
this [i.e., in reality this independence between the earth-sphere dualistic manifestations and human beliefs, attitudes, feelings, and intentions]
is never so.*

Every

- sphere,*
- realm or*
- world,*

*from the
lowest
to the highest,
is always
a total reflection
of the overall
state of consciousness
of the beings
who have congregated
in that sphere.*

It has often been said that

- heaven*

and

- hell*

*are nothing but
states of consciousness.*

This is true in one sense.

*However,
the same people who make this statement
often overlook that
states of consciousness [i.e., states of consciousness of beings in a sphere]
create
even the physical conditions*

- within and*
- around*

them.

08

*If this world [i.e., If this world you inhabit]
reflects
the combination of
both extremes [i.e., reflects the extremes of both good and evil]
creating this polarity [i.e. this dualistic good-and-evil polarity],
there must also exist
other worlds
in which
one side [i.e., one side of the polarity of good and evil]
so outweighs
the other
that the polarity disappears [i.e., there must exist worlds
where the polarity of dualistic good-and-evil
extreme opposites disappears altogether].*

Spheres
• of evil or
• of hell
would therefore
manifest only
• pain,
• fear and
• suffering
and
no beauty at all,

while spheres
• of good
would
not
have
any
• pain,
• fear and
• suffering.

Imagine a world in which
• the tiger
and
• the deer
lovingly befriend each other!

In that world
no animal
needs the life of another
to sustain its own life.

09

Art

*sometimes reflects
this blissful world
because
the soul*

- *deeply knows it [i.e., the soul deeply knows this blissful world]*
- and
- *longs to return to it.*

Thus

- *painters,*
 - *musicians,*
 - *poets and*
 - *dancers*
- reveal*

*a small measure of
this complete world of bliss*

- *in which
nothing ever
dies or
wilts,*

- *in which
life*

gloriously finds

forever new expressions

without any break

in consciousness

to blot out life's continuity.

Those of you who

- *are ready for or*
- *are closer to*

*this state of consciousness [i.e., this state of consciousness where only
bliss can be tasted in many positive ways]*

will experience

- *such artistic expressions, or*
- *the beautiful expression of nature,
as intensely*
- *healing and*
- *soothing,*

as

- *encouraging and*
- *incredibly desirable.*

But
to those who
are still
deeply submerged in darkness,
such divine
• reminders and
• expressions
are
as painful
as they are
nourishing for
the more enlightened spirits.

This is why
there is
• no light –
• no truth,
• no love,
• no divine reminder –
in the spheres of hell.

It [i.e., the light] cannot be borne [in the spheres of hell].

The entities there [i.e., the entities in the spheres of hell]
need to grow
gradually
into more evolved states
until the light
of these [more evolved] states
can become
a means
to make further growth
possible.

10

I want to remind you once again that
you inhabit an
in-between sphere,
in which
• one side of the polarity
does not exclude
• the other,
and this reflects exactly
your own state of mind.

*Perhaps you can
best understand
the state of those
who cannot bear the light
when you think back to a time
when
you
were experiencing
the fullness of*

- love,*
- light, and*
- bliss*

*and yet
your thoughts
were drifting
to certain discomforts
you might occasionally experience.*

- Negativities,*
- dissension and*
- destruction*

*still give you
at times
a certain*

- negative pleasure and*
- excitement.*

For beings in the

- lowest,*
- darkest*

- states of consciousness, or*
- worlds,*

*all
light
is unbearably painful.*

11

*Now,
why am I telling you this
at this time?*

*The emphasis of
your next work
is clearly on*

- *overcoming and*
- *transcending*

*duality [i.e., transcending this dualistic polarity of good and evil],
after
first
thoroughly understanding
it [i.e., this dualistic polarity of good and evil].*

*You must therefore
recognize
that your present*

- *sphere of life and*
- *consciousness*

*can only be
a combination of
what also exists*

- *in other combinations and*
- *in different distributions*

*on the
total spectrum of consciousness.*

*And if such variables exist at all,
which is reasonable to assume,
then*

*spheres of consciousness
must also exist
in which there is
no duality –
either in the*

- *positive*

or in the

- *negative*

sense.

12

*When consciousness
first meets
the void,
the darkness
is so great
that a negative unity
comes about temporarily.*

Only as
consciousness [*Only as this consciousness in this initial state of negative unity*]
gradually expands
does the
other
positive polarity
appear on the horizon
and thus [*i.e., the appearance of the positive polarity on the horizon where before only the negative polarity existed in a state of negative unity*]
creates
duality [*i.e., creates the dualistic presence in the consciousness of both positive and negative, both good and evil*].

In that phase,
duality
is already
a forward movement
in the evolutionary plan [*i.e., forward movement from the initial state of negative unity, that initial state of total darkness in the void, forward movement when the consciousness first meets the void, when the light first meets the darkness*].

Only when
consciousness
reaches its full potential
does the unity
become
totally positive [*i.e., does consciousness reach the final state of positive unity after traversing many incarnations in interim dualistic states, which followed the initial state of negative unity – which is the initial void, the state of total darkness*].

In that
completed state [*i.e., In that final state of positive unity, in that final state of “all light”*]

there is
no longer any
• pain,
• strain, or
• death,
be it ever so temporary.

There is
no
• conflict
any longer.

13

*It is my task now
to open to you
more and
more approaches to*

- *comprehend*

and

- *overcome*

duality

so you can see the

- *pitfalls and*
- *mental difficulties*

*that assail
the human mind
in its present state [i.e., present dualistic state].*

*Duality
always
spells*

- *conflict and*
- *strain.*

*In the last lecture [see Lecture 253 - Continue Your Struggle And Cease All Struggle]
I expounded on
one very specific aspect of this strain.*

*Now I shall broach
another topic
that is extremely important for all of you.*

*When fully grasped,
it will aid you further
in overcoming
another aspect
of the*

- *ever present,*
- *painful*

*polarity [i.e., the polarity of dualistic good-and-evil opposites]
against which
you constantly battle.*

14

*You often use the word
"surrender."*

*You sense that this word
contains an important aspect of
spiritual fulfillment.*

*Yet there is also
a great deal of confusion
attached to this word
which needs to be explored.*

*Human beings
who are
incapable of surrendering
cannot find*

- their core, or*
- their divine nature,*

cannot

- love, and*

cannot truly

- learn and*
- grow.*

They are very

- stiff,*
- defended and*
- closed.*

*Yet
the ability to surrender
is an
essential
inner
movement
from which
all good
can flow.*

15	<p><i>You need to surrender to the will of God; otherwise you will always remain attached to your very shortsighted self-will, which brings you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• pain and</i><i>• confusion.</i> <p><i>Surrender means a letting go of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• the ego,</i> <p><i>of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• cherished ideas,</i><i>• goals,</i><i>• desires, and</i><i>• opinions –</i> <p><i>all for the sake of truth.</i></p> <p><i>For God is truth.</i></p>
16	<p><i>You also need to surrender to your own feelings.</i></p> <p><i>If you do not, you will always</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• impoverish yourself and</i><i>• shut out</i> <p><i>your feeling nature.</i></p> <p><i>You will become an automaton.</i></p>

17	<p><i>You need to surrender to those whom you love.</i></p> <p><i>This means</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>trusting,</i>• <i>giving them the benefit of the doubt,</i>• <i>being willing to yield, as long as this serves the cause of truth.</i>
18	<p><i>You surely need to surrender to a teacher in any field you wish to learn.</i></p> <p><i>If basic surrender is lacking, no matter how much the teacher is</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>capable and</i>• <i>willing to give you, you can receive very little, if anything.</i> <p><i>This applies also to a spiritual teacher.</i></p> <p><i>If you constantly</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>withhold your trust and</i>• <i>maintain reservations,</i> <p><i>you do not allow a most important dynamic to develop.</i></p>

*You may assume that
you can absorb
mental knowledge
from a teacher
from whom
you
inwardly
keep aloof, and
this is true
to a degree.*

*But
in true learning
much more is involved
than
outer
mental processes.*

You have an

- inner,*
- emotional,*
- spiritual, and*
- involuntary*

*level
that needs to learn also.*

*On this level
nothing
can be absorbed
unless you
surrender to
the teacher.*

*This rule
applies to
the most mundane things
you wish to learn.*

*A process learned
merely as
a mental deduction
is not truly absorbed.*

*It has to become
an inner reality
before it can become your own.
How much more does this hold true for spiritual growth!*

19

*Your refusal
to surrender
has to do with*

- *lack of trust,*

with

- *suspicion,*
- *fear,*

and with

- *the misunderstanding*

*that if you
surrender
you will lose*

- *your autonomy and*
- *your ability*

to make future decisions.

*The refusal
to surrender
creates
an overdeveloped
self-will
which takes its toll
on the personality.*

*The person
who refuses to surrender
becomes truly impoverished.*

*Surrender
is such a movement*

- *of fullness,*
- *of giving over,*
- *of letting go,*

*that enrichment
must follow it
according to natural law.*

*Overdeveloped self-will
always brings strife.*

*You can see in your world
how
two self-wills clashing
create war on*

- *a small or*
- *a big*

scale.

	<p><i>To make peace possible, whether between</i> • <i>individuals</i> <i>or</i> • <i>countries,</i> <i>there has to be a yielding.</i></p>
20	<p><i>Yet we cannot just state that surrender is the key.</i></p> <p><i>It is never as simple as that.</i></p> <p><i>Should you surrender to a person who is truly untrustworthy?</i></p> <p><i>Should you give in when the situation requires a fighting spirit to stay in truth?</i></p> <p><i>The need</i> • <i>to stand up and fight for a good cause,</i> • <i>to defend a right position,</i> • <i>to assert justified claims, is indispensable in any</i> • <i>productive,</i> • <i>healthy life.</i></p>

	<p><i>The need</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>to discriminate</i>• <i>when to trust and</i>• <i>when not [to trust]</i> <p><i>is also indispensable.</i></p> <p><i>"And how am I to know?"</i> <i>you often ask yourself.</i></p>
21	<p><i>A very great confusion</i> <i>arises right here.</i></p> <p><i>There are</i> <i>few issues in human life</i> <i>about which</i> <i>there is as much</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>misunderstanding and</i>• <i>displacement</i> <p><i>as about</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>false surrender and</i>• <i>false assertion.</i> <p><i>How do you</i> <i>become more aware</i> <i>of this very important aspect of living?</i></p> <p><i>How can you</i> <i>avoid</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>capitulation and</i>• <i>resignation</i> <p><i>under the guise of</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>surrender?</i> <p><i>How can you</i> <i>avoid a</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>false,</i>• <i>stiff</i> <p><i>holding on</i> <i>when</i> <i>surrender would be appropriate?</i></p> <p><i>Let me show you a few important keys</i> <i>which will eventually enable you to find this fine balance.</i></p>

22

*For a
dependent ego
that denies
self-responsibility
it is quite impossible
to surrender.*

*In such a case,
surrender
becomes
a giving away of autonomy.*

This is why

- *those who are*
 - *secretly and*
 - *often unconsciously*
- *most dependent,*
- *those who*
 - *crave most*
 - *for a perfect authority*
 - *to take over,*

are also

- *the most defended*
- *against all yielding.*

*They vaguely sense
that the
giving away of self
can only occur
when
the self is*

- *strong and*
- *healthy;*

then [i.e., then when the self is strong and healthy]
the self
will grow
even

- *stronger and*
- *healthier*

*through the very act
of giving itself away.*

*So, my friends,
when you find*

- *in yourself or*
- *in others*

an inability

- *to surrender,*
- *to trust,*
- *to give over,*
- *to yield,*

look for
the undercurrent
of

- *dependency and*
- *the denial of*

genuine self-responsibility.

The greater
the rebellion, and
the greater
the show of

*"I must protect my autonomy,
so
I will never be told what to do,"*

the more
desperate
is the inner wish

- *not*
to govern
one's
 - *own life,*
- *not*
to be made responsible for
one's
 - *decisions and*
 - *their outcome.*

23

When you choose

- *a mate,*
- *a friend,*
- *a teacher, or*
- *someone with whom*
 - *trust and*
 - *at least some degree of surrender**is necessary,*

how often

are you blinded

- *by wishful thinking,*
- *by your self-will*
 - which demands that*
 - the other person*
 - be a certain way*
 - in order to accommodate*
 - some of your*
 - distorted*
 - *desires and*
 - *aims?*

Since

a part of you knows this,
your distrust
is to a certain degree
justified,

even if

the other person [in fact]
happens to
deserve the trust
in realistic terms.

In order to

- *trust and*
- *give over,*
 - you need to be*
 - free*
 - to a considerable degree*
 - of*
 - unrealistic expectations.*

*Your gaze
has to be*

- *clear and*
- *undistorted by*
 - *childish or*
 - *destructive motivations.*

When this is the case [i.e., When your gaze is clear and undistorted],

- *your intuition will function;*
- *your observations will be*
 - *clear and*
 - *reliable;*
- *your channel will come through.*

*You will know
that the person you trust
does not need
ultimate perfection
in order to
warrant your trust.*

*You will simply
be able to yield
where this is necessary.*

24

*Surrender
never means
that you give away
your ability*

- *to discriminate and*
- *to make independent decisions forever.*

*It [i.e., Surrender]
may perhaps
indicate a change [in you]
of course
if that is appropriate [i.e., if a change in you is appropriate].*

For life is in constant flux.

• *Everything and*
• *everyone*
 changes,
 and there is
 no fixed guarantee
 that
 what is
 right
 • *today*
 will be so [i.e., will be]
 [right]
 • *tomorrow.*

The greater
 your ability
 to surrender
 in the right way,
the stronger
 you find yourself becoming, and
the clearer
 your visions are.

25

At present,
 many of you
 find yourselves
 in an interim stage
 where
 • *the self*
 is not yet
 • *complete and*
 • *whole*
 enough and
 • *your vision*
 is not
 objective enough
for you to
 truly let go
 into the inner yielding attitude
 without which
 it is quite impossible
 to become
 a whole person.

Therefore
you need to attempt,
very consciously,
to further
self-responsibility
in every possible way –

- *overtly and*
- *subtly,*
on the
 - *inner and*
 - *outer*
levels.

At the same time,
you need to
pray

- *consciously and*
- *deliberately*
to be able
 - *to trust those*
who deserve your trust,
 - *to follow*
their leadership, and
 - *to surrender*
your self-will.

This
surrender of self-will
is always
an act
toward God.

His will alone
must replace
your self-will,

but sometimes
His will
can function
only through others
before it can
manifest directly
through you.

*It is God's will
that you also surrender to
the spiritual leadership
he has guided you to.*

*It is God's will
for you to surrender to
some of the*

- *most beautiful*
- *involuntary*

processes within yourself –

- *your love feelings, for instance, and*
- *your deepest intuitions.*

*It is God's will
that you become capable of*

- *yielding*

as well as
that you become capable of

- *fighting and*
- *standing firm.*

As you grow in

- *autonomy and*
- *self-creation,*

*you will sense
very clearly
that there is
no*

- *contradiction or*
- *duality*

between

- *surrendering*

and

- *standing firm.*

*In fact, it will be clear to you
that
one [e.g., say, “surrendering”]
• presupposes
the other [i.e., here, it will be clear to you that “surrendering”
presupposes “standing firm”]*
and

- *is not possible without
the other [i.e., here, it will be clear to you that “surrendering” is not
possible without “standing firm”].*

26

*Your human struggle
is tragic.*

*You long so deeply
for a fulfillment
that is*

- *indeed possible and*
- *not as unrealistic*

as you sometimes suspect.

*Yet you
make
the fulfillment of this longing
impossible
by blocking
your soul's
natural inclination
toward surrender.*

*All truly good things
can come
only when
you surrender
to the greater forces of the universe,
[forces that are] both*

- *within and*
- *without,*

whether it be [surrender]

- *to the Creator,*
- *to another human being, or*
- *to being a follower.*

27

*Yet [i.e., Yet while you need to surrender on the one hand, on the other hand]
you also
need to
fight for these fulfillments
by relinquishing*

- *your passivity,*
- *your irresponsibility*

*in wanting
an ideal authority
to do it all for you.*

You need

- *active,*
- *positive*

aggression

to never allow

the dark forces within you to

- *conquer you, or*
- *make you believe*
that all is futile, or
- *convince you*
to give in to

their whisperings of

- *hopelessness and*
- *false surrender.*

Here [i.e., Here in facing the dark forces within you]
you must

- *stand firm and*
- *realize*

the power

embedded

in your

- *thought processes,*

in your

- *inner will,*

in your

- *ability to*
choose

- *faith*

over fear,

- *courage*

over cowardice.

For

what requires

more courage

than

believing in

- *God's truth and*
- *your power to*
live and
demonstrate

it [i.e., believing in your power to live
and demonstrate God's truth]?

28

*There is a
finely calibrated balance
between*

- *the active movement of the personality –
whether in*
- *action,*
- *thought, or*
- *attitude –*

and

- *genuine surrender.*

*Genuine surrender
never
weakens
the personality.*

- *It [i.e., Genuine surrender]
makes
the positive ego*
- *healthier and*
- *stronger.*
- *It [i.e., Genuine surrender]
enables you
to be more*
- *autonomous and*
- *active.*

Genuine

- *positive activity and*
- *self-affirmation*

*renders you
sufficiently*

- *strong and*
- *resilient*

*so you
can dare*

- *to let go of self,*
- *to give over, and*
- *to allow yourself
to flow*

*with a new movement
stemming from sources
as yet unknown.*

*These forces [i.e., These forces stemming from sources as yet unknown],
as I mentioned before,*

- *may come from within you;*

they [i.e., these forces stemming from sources as yet unknown]

- *may ask you
to risk*

- *following
a teacher or*

- *loving
a mate.*

*This [i.e., This act of risking “following a teacher” or “loving a mate”]
never means*

*closing your eyes
to reality.*

Quite the contrary;

*you should
always
open*

*all your faculties and
observe objectively,
without
personal
motivation.*

Check

- *whether*

*you may want to see the other person
as more perfect [i.e., as more perfect than he or she is]
because*

*you still wish to
abdicate*

*self-responsibility [and thereby make that other person
responsible for giving you what you want], or*

- *whether*

*you want to be
always armored against
any kind of*

- *yielding,*
- *following, or*
- *surrender
and*

*want to justify it [i.e., want to justify why you dare not
yield, follow, or surrender to
such and such a person or situation].*

*You may wish to see the other person
as worse [i.e., wish to see the other person as worse than he or she is]
for the same reason.*

Then you can say,

"No one should be trusted.

I must always be on guard."

29

*You all
have surrendered
in some areas of your lives,
otherwise
you would not know the*

- fulfillment and*
- positive states*

you now enjoy.

*The growth
you have experienced
on this path [for example]
is in part due to
having allowed yourself
to trust*

- this [pathwork] process,*
- your helper,*
- your leaders,*
- me.*

*All of this
has helped you*

- to open up
a little further and*
- to give your trust
to God.*

*This trust
may not yet encompass
all
areas of your being.*

*But to whatever degree
trust does exist,
you are*

- *liberated,*
- *free,*
- *strong, and*
- *self-confident.*

*So what I am saying here
sounds indeed
like a
great paradox:
only when you*

- *give yourself over*

can you find your

- *real strength and*
- *autonomy.*

30

*It is equally correct
to state that
all of you
still withhold
a part of yourselves
from this movement of
completely giving over.*

*There always remains
a little corner of your soul
which
you hold in reserve,
protecting it
from
the beautiful movement
of merging with
the all.*

*The more
you hold in reserve,
the greater
• the problems will be,
the more
• fear,
• pain, and
• conflict
must exist in your life.*

*The irony is
that you believe
exactly the opposite.*

*You believe
that you are
safe
only when
you hold yourself
• separate,
• suspicious, and
• stiff.*

*The truth is
that by total surrender
to God
you not only find
true
• safety and
• security;
you also become capable
of surrendering
to others
if and when
this is appropriate in your life.*

*Only when you
totally surrender to God
is your channel
clear enough*

- *to recognize*
 - *truth*

from

- *falsehood,*

- *to see*
 - *who should*

and

- *who should not*
be
 - *trusted and*
 - *followed.*

*Then you can
shed
your selfhood
in safety,
as your soul demands,
without the danger
of losing yourself.*

*Or perhaps I can state it differently:
only when
you can*

- *lose*
yourself

can you

- *find*
a more
 - *complete and*
 - *real*

you.

31

The ability

- *to give yourself over,*
 - *to lose yourself,*
- is tantamount to*
being a
- *healthy and*
 - *whole*
- person.*

[1]First,

you should
mentally
fully comprehend
the importance of
surrender

so that

you will be motivated
to set the further process [i.e., process of further surrender]
in motion.

[2]Next,

you need to
make the decision
on the voluntary level.

It is not difficult to see
how you,
quite

- *consciously and*
 - *deliberately,*
- deny this movement [i.e., movement of surrender].*

The conscious decision,
to deliberately

- *let go of self and*
 - *give over,*
- will at first seem*
frightening,

but after you have
summoned up the courage
to do it again and again,
you will discover
the great

- *safety and*
 - *security*
- that arises from it.*

32

[3]Then

*you will have to deal with
your involuntary levels
that hold you back
from surrendering.*

*You may first
recognize the existence
of this reluctant aspect of yourself
only indirectly,
• by manifestations
rather than
• by direct awareness.*

*You will need the usual
• honesty and
• stamina
to explore
some of the
less pleasant manifestations
before you can recognize
your
hard inner nucleus
that
• withholds and
• denies.*

*This involuntary part [i.e., the unconscious part that holds you back
from surrendering]
needs to be approached
somewhat differently than
the conscious part [i.e., than the conscious part that holds you back
from surrendering].*

*The
• conscious
part
can respond
directly
to your
will direction,
but the
• involuntary [i.e., unconscious],
• hidden
part
does not [i.e., does not directly respond to your will].*

*What you need to do [i.e., do with this involuntary unconscious part of yourself]
is ask
the Christ within
to make this change possible [i.e., change to a surrendering
attitude possible].*

*Pray for
that part of yourself [i.e., that involuntary unconscious part of yourself]
that does not
directly
respond to*

- your positive intentionality and*
- your goodwill.*

*Be fervent
on the conscious level*

- in your desire
to unify
all of you*
- in your desire
for a total giving over
to the Creator.*

*You also need to cultivate
the ability
to yield to
other human beings.*

*But realize
that this
involuntary part of you
will at first
lag behind, as it were.*

It [i.e., this involuntary unconscious part of you]

- cannot immediately respond and*
- often stubbornly holds on
despite
your conscious power
to effect any change.*

*Make room for
a process
within the greater process,
in which
a hidden corner of your soul
catches up with
the rest of you.*

33

*You have no idea
how strong
your own spirit is.*

You

- *constantly underestimate [yourself] and*
- *believe yourself to be*
 - *much weaker and*
 - *much more ineffectual**than you actually are.*

Since you must

- *experience*
- according to*
- *your belief,*
- it is difficult
to find out
how strong you really are.*

*You can create
anything,
for you have
all divine creative forces
at your disposal.*

And of course

*you do
exactly that.*

*Some of your creations
are undesirable,
springing from*

- *negative beliefs and*
- *distorted notions.*

*If you could only see
the immense power
that dwells in
your*

- *thoughts,*

your

- *beliefs,*

your

- *attitudes, and*

your

- *desires!*

34

*The power
of your own
living spirit
still needs to be
discovered.*

*There is a
block
to this discovery [i.e., There is a block to this discovery of the power
of your own living spirit within].*

*You often
wallow in the notion
that you are*

- *helpless and*
- *beaten by adversity.*

*Even the
popular
belief in God
can contribute
to the notion
that you are helpless.*

*Again
it is not contradictory [i.e., not contradictory to saying you have immense power]
to say [also] that
all the power
is with God.*

*He is [after all]
the source
of everything.*

*Yet this [i.e., Yet this statement that God is the source of everything]
by no means excludes
your own potential to*

- *unite with
this divine power and*
- *allow it
to flow through you.*

	<p><i>You are capable to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>become receptive to it [i.e., become receptive to this divine power] and</i>• <i>become an active agent of this greater power.</i> <p><i>You have the inborn ability to be a relay station of creative forces, if only you</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>knew this and</i>• <i>used it [i.e., used this divine power and these creative forces] wisely.</i>
35	<p><i>The block exists on the one hand because the</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>limited mind's</i>• <i>self-will</i> <p><i>is often contradictory to</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>divine</i>• <i>will and</i>• <i>law.</i> <p><i>Insistently holding on to your self-will, you become less powerful, because [i.e., because by insistently holding on to your self-will]</i></p> <p><i>your [divine] creative forces are paralyzed.</i></p>

*There is, on the other hand,
a part of you
that does not wish to be
a*

- *fully grown,*
- *self-creating
entity.*

*[Rather] It [i.e., That part of you that does not wish to be a fully grown entity]
wishes to*

- *be given to and*
- *avoid the responsibility
for your life-creation.*

*This immature part
weakens you
in a different way [i.e., in a way different from the way the “self-will being
contrary to divine will” weakens you by paralyzing your divine forces].*

*Neither
of these weaknesses [i.e., neither 1) self-will opposing divine will, nor 2) not
wishing to be mature and responsible for life creations]
are inherent.*

They are [both]

- *unnecessary*
- *artificial
constructions
due to*
 - *a false attitude and*
 - *ignorance.*

*Once you awaken
to your
inherent potential*

- *to create,*
- *to change, and*
- *to affect*
 - *your own soul substance, as well as*
 - *people and*
 - *your surroundings,*

*you will know
who you really are.*

36	<p><i>This new awareness unifies – among many others – the specific dualities I have discussed in this lecture:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>• surrendering and • standing firm,</i><i>• yielding and • self-assertion,</i><i>• giving in and • fighting for the good cause of truth.</i>
37	<p><i>As you grope for the fine line of • when and • how to express both sides [i.e., both sides of these dualities], you will find that they [i.e., find that the two sides of these dualities] are not mutually exclusive alternatives.</i></p> <p><i>It is true that both attitudes are necessary ingredients of life, but it is equally true that the ability to fully give over strengthens you to fight • for and • in truth.</i></p>

*Conversely,
the courage*

- *to fight objectively for truth and*
- *to disregard self-interest and hidden agendas*

will give you sufficient strength to risk

- *letting go and*
- *shedding your ego-self.*

You will create a

- *harmonious*
- *automatic response that will be*
- *adequate and*
- *right for each situation.*

But it requires a great deal of deliberate

- *awareness and*
- *groping while you grow into this state,*

until your responses can readjust themselves to the way they were

- *originally and*
- *naturally meant to function.*

38

Surrender
amounts to
a certain kind of
• inner,
• involuntary
relaxation.

The
involuntary process
comes about gradually
as a result of
much voluntary work
on the outer level,
yet
it [i.e., yet the automatic involuntary process]
seems to
just happen.

A phenomenon
some of you may know
may serve as a helpful illustration.

When people go through
extreme states of pain,
there comes a point
when the pain
is no longer bearable.

At that point
the fight
against pain
is given up
on the
involuntary]
level,

and
total surrender
to the pain,
transcending the
• conscious,
• volitional
• mind and
• will,
takes over.

*In that moment
all pain ceases
and transforms
into ecstasy.*

*This phenomenon is known to the devilish practitioners
who torture human beings
for political and other power reasons.*

*When they see this transformation happen [i.e., when involuntary
processes take over and the tortured person feels
ecstasy instead of pain at the hands of the torturers],
they stop their torture,
allowing their victims to regain once more
a state in which they again
begin to resist surrender [and, by resisting pain, feel pain].*

*My point here is
to show you
how everything
including pain
can be transcended
if the concept of surrender
is*

- properly understood and*
- incorporated into the soul.*

39

*Take in
these thoughts and
give them*

- space and*
- scope*

*in your mind,
my beloved friends.*

*This [i.e., This absorption of these thoughts into your mind]
will start
a new process
that will enrich your personality
with
new ways
of self-expression.*

[With this new process and with new ways of self-expression]

There will be room

- *for firmness,*
- *for standing*
in self-affirmation, and
- *for the ability*
to surrender
 - *whenever and*
 - *wherever*
this is an
 - *appropriate and*
 - *fruitful*
attitude.

Surrender to God
is always

- *appropriate and*
- *fruitful.*

Surrender of
all of

- *yourself and*
- *your feelings*
to
 - *a leader,*
 - *a teacher,*
 - *a helper,*
 - *a mate, and to*
 - *certain conditions*
is often
a necessary movement
without which
you cannot
complete yourself.

40

My

- *dearest,*
- *most beloved*
friends,
you are all
 - *so blessed,*
 - *so richly held*
in God's hands.

	<p><i>Know the strength of your spirit that becomes manifest when you know your connection with the ultimate source of all.</i></p>
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