

Pathwork on  
**A Challenge in Early Stages of Enlightenment**

A quote from Pathwork Lecture 33 – Occupation with Self – Right and Wrong Faith

19	<p>... There are people who have complete faith, as complete as can be possible for the individual in question. For every impurity of the soul somehow influences also the completeness of faith. Perfect faith would mean no disharmony in your life whatever and no fear in any respect. But none of you have gone that far. However, there are some in whom faith is stronger than it is in others. In people of this kind there often is an unrecognized feeling that he or she is something special to God, a favorite child; he holds a very particular position in his relationship to the Father; he is something quite unique and thinks he can possess God for himself. This is a harmful feeling -- and also a dangerous one. Dangerous because there is so much pride contained in it and also because it is so very easy to deceive oneself. The self-justification is always ready at hand that this belief is wonderful and an expression of one's devotion and spirituality.</p>
20	<p>Here we have one of those cases where good and pure motives -- the desire to come near to God, the love for the Creator -- mingle with the bad and impure ones -- spiritual pride and separateness from one's fellow-creatures. Since you will be utterly unaware in your intellect that such feelings exist in your relationship with God, it is your task to test yourself if and how strongly this may apply to you. When you have discovered such feelings -- even to a small extent - - think that you are not rated any higher or any more than anyone else in the eyes of God. The feeling that you are something special to God can be considered as a transitory state in your development. Your longing and love of God is awakening before your pride and self-will have left you. The two opposite trends combine in a temporary state. But you must be aware of it and not believe for one instant that this is right and good. It is part of the growing process that has to be finely sifted and purified by yourself.</p>
21	<p>I invite those of you to whom this may apply to test your feelings when you think about God, when you feel God, and when you strive to get nearer to Him. Though you feel that all is as it should be, is there not somewhere a hidden feeling you have never acknowledged in which you believe yourself nearer and dearer to God than other people? The root of this feeling may even exist in people whose faith is not real as yet. But it will come out stronger once faith becomes whole and the transitory process unfolds. And if you find that the feeling of being special may apply to you at least in some small degree, begin to work very conscientiously concentrating on your relationship with your fellow-creatures.</p>
22	<p>You will often find a particular intolerance in people who feel themselves specially loved by God. There is often even a kind of arrogance toward others;</p>

	<p>perhaps not always in their outward behavior, but in their inner attitude. Try in your meditations to choose a person whom you do not respect particularly, or perhaps even one whom you like least of all the people you know; or one who particularly irritates you. Then think how very much God also loves this particular person, just as much as He loves you. Even if the other person happens to be spiritually less developed, he or she is still loved by God. This will be a wonderful exercise, exactly the medicine you need, my friends.</p>
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