

Finding One's Role in Moving Toward World Peace – Prayer for Peace with Action (But Inner, Not Outer)

This quote from Pathwork Lecture 65 *Question and Answers*, speaks to each of our roles in moving the planet toward world peace. Are we to become politically active for peace? The Lecture would say no. Rather, the Lecture suggests that the most effective thing one can do for world peace is to pray for peace AND work with one's most troublesome relationships. In resolving these most troublesome conflicts on this personal inner level, world peace is affected in powerful ways beyond external political activism.

13	<p>QUESTION: These are merely extensions, but I will present them anyway. Will praying for others be productive of constructive results in securing peace.</p> <p>ANSWER: Oh yes, indeed. If prayer has effect, sooner or later, on one individual, it certainly has effect on humankind as a whole. I do not mean that the desired result manifests immediately. But I would like to add something more. Prayer is most constructive if one also gains a bit of insight about one's own inner errors. How can this be combined with the prayer for peace? It can be done in the following way: What goes on in your world is exactly the same thing on a larger scale as what goes on between two or three or four human beings. From the point of view of spiritual truth and spiritual reality, there are no big and little issues. The tiniest issue in a domestic quarrel, for example, is of exactly the same impact and importance as big international issues. This may sound fantastic to you. Nevertheless it is so, my friends. You think that because many lives are involved, the larger issues are more important. Little do you realize that, in truth and reality, your inner deviations and errors affect and involve just as many lives in the long run. You think that because the question of life or death exists in international quarrels, it is more important than the little, inner, subtle rights or wrongs in your private lives. But you ignore that with these subtle private undercurrents you contribute to the so-called big and important issues. In fact, the former are the cause of the latter.</p>
14	<p>I can very well understand your difficulty in grasping what I say here. To be able to understand what I say calls for your innermost depth. In creation there is only one question: right or wrong, truth or untruth, light or darkness. From our view it makes no difference whether such conflict exists in one soul or involves many. One causes the other and it is therefore the same. If you deceive yourself and your motives and thereby create a confused and disharmonious situation -- for your self-deceptions and confusions are bound to negatively affect other people -- you, together with the other people involved, create very unfavorable chain reactions and vicious circles. Not only does the very same principle underlie what manifests in world politics, but is partly responsible for it. Each emotion, each attitude, each current of the soul leaves an imprint on the cosmic forces and consequently returns to you, often in a roundabout way, until these negative forces are exhausted.</p>
15	<p>If you try to comprehend the thought I present here, you will gain a great</p>

	<p>deal of insight and understanding. In your prayer for peace, try to find where, in your own surroundings, you act in ways that are similar to the actions and reactions of nations. By such discoveries, you will contribute more to peace than through other approaches. Find the similarity, then you will gain the insight and understanding that it is all one and the same. The so-called big issues could not exist if the many little issues in thousands of individual cases were not a precedent to the creation of the same situation on a larger scale.</p>
16	<p>This contemplation should help in a double way. One: it would contribute to your personal insights. Your philosophical understanding would increase and thus facilitate your incentive for purification. Two: you would recognize, without the slightest trace of guilt, how you personally contribute to and are in a small measure responsible for the world's unrest. <u>Not in the sense</u>, as many people would believe, <u>of not participating in political activities</u>, but in the sense that <u>your personal conflicts add to the general world conflict</u>. Try to see this, and if you really try, you will find it.</p>