

Volume 6, Day 12: Both Abandoned in “Marriage!”

Salvation is not merely deliverance from sin, nor the experience of personal holiness. The salvation of God is deliverance out of self entirely into union with Himself. My experiential knowledge of salvation will be essentially deliverance from sin and personal holiness. However, salvation is that the Spirit of God has brought me into touch with God's personality, and I am thrilled with a relationship with someone infinitely greater than myself. I am overwhelmed and obsessed with the love God.

If we believe that we are called to proclaim holiness or sanctification, we have been misguided. We are called to introduce others to a personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. The fact that He saves from sin and makes us holy is part of the effect of the wonderful experience of falling in love with God.

Abandonment never produces the consciousness of its own effort, because the whole life is taken up with the One to Whom we abandon ourselves. Don't go around telling others you are abandoned to God when you know nothing about it. And you will never know anything about it unless and until you have realized that John 3:16 means that God gave Himself wholly and absolutely to us.

In our abandon we give ourselves over to God just as God gave Himself for us, without any reservation or hesitation. We are 'all in' to this 'up-close-and-personal' love affair with Him. The consequence of abandonment never enters into our minds because our life is taken up with Him.

Salvation is the initiation of a marriage of sorts, wherein each partner commits to put the interests and needs of the other ahead of one's own. Anything less than the highest of all human relationship commitments will produce neither salvation nor relationship. Jesus gave His all. We must give our all in return. Then and only then is the relationship established. And once it is established, no one can break it up.