

Power's SOURCE which Every Person Needs Today!

Let's find the power to make the changes we all need in these decisive hours!

I am talking about personal power!—AND.....

I am talking about combined power in our current, common circumstances & fate.

Several images will show us the way today.

The first image is the first journey by astronauts into space from US soil in nearly ten years!

Last Sunday, many of us watched in fascination and wonder as the Space X -NASA mission to the International Space Station— **& back**—came to an exciting, successful conclusion.

Two months ago, we witnessed the launch—the Falcon rocket lifting off on May 30th!

Nine minutes later, the first stage booster released and returned to earth!—made a perfect landing on a drone ship.

Twenty-four hours later, the **Dragon space ship crew** docked at the space station—the two crew members floated through the hatch into the arms of the 3 space station crew members.

Now it is Sunday afternoon, August 2. At a speed of 17,500 miles per hour—the Dragon re-enters the earth's atmosphere.

Aided by more than one deployment of parachutes—the space ship quickly slows to 20 miles per hour— **exerting four times the force of gravity on the astronauts**—then splashes down on the ocean's surface.

Bobbing around, the spaceship is retrieved by boats, lifted onto a ship where the Dragon crew finally emerge safe through the opened hatch.

An amazing feat of science and technology!

And yet for all of those spectacular feats, what we do not see is the **power** assembled **within** the two crew members to actually make the storied flight.

We do not see the knowledge, the persistence, courage, imagination, endurance, and constant intention to pay attention which actually gave them the power to fly into space and safely return.

We see the same thing in a bird—a hawk, a heron or the wings of snow geese and Canada geese we observe in this region of the country.

We see them flying, soaring! Guiding each other.

What a marvelous sight.

But we do not see **within** the bird—the effort, the energy, the power that actually enables the bird to lift, soar and fly.

Or—here is a person praying.

We only see the outer form and shape.

We do not—and we cannot see their inner journey—the deep going spirit, wrestling with conditions which we can only imagine—unless we ourselves have traveled to that inner region before.

The power I am speaking of here is the power to create your own life!

This power—which you and you alone are responsible for exercising in the days you are given—has been given to you by your Creator to **do something** that adds meaning, and value to the world.

I am speaking of both the seen world and the unseen world.

You have been given—by the original Source of Power—God! the power to create, each day, the next page in your life.

The Creation story in Genesis is not a one and done event.

It is a creative story we write on the tablet of every newly created day.

You wake up in the morning.

You gather your physical and mental energies.

What will you create with your day today?

The artist Picasso once observed of his own creative process: *“To know what you are going to draw, you have to begin drawing.”*

To know how you are going to live or love or build or create, -- work!—you have to begin living, loving, building, creating.

This is the originating source of your power.

As one of humankind’s greatest original thinkers, Frederich Nietzche wrote, “You must **build** the **bridge** on which you, and only you, must cross the river of life.”

Not only can no one else do it for you!

In fact, you should not— out fear or conformity or mental laziness—allow others to do it for you.

Because if you choose that way, your bridge will never be finished, and you will be left on the side where you started, sadly named “an un-lived life”.....MY un-lived life.

There will be times, of course, when our power wanes.

We tire.

We run up against obstacles.

Our character defects undermine our intentions.

Our morale fails and we turn back.

We encounter problems which we are unable to solve.

Vexing, perplexing matters which we unable to resolve.

Now, we must turn toward the **Higher Power!**—

To take over and do for us what we are unable to do for ourselves! **God!**

Some people don't want to use the word God—That's okay.

Put another “O” in it.

Or make it the acronym GOD.

Good Orderly Direction!

Or—SOURCE!

Return to your SOURCE.

Where you you may assemble all your resources—all your energies—all your imagination—and apply them persistently to what you believe is the right course—in order to create the path across the terrain of your own life.

And even when you find yourself at a dead end!

And you must turn around!

Or you lose the trail and must double back & retrace your steps!

Always you are keeping your mind's eye on the magnificent inner compass needle which is being directed—as though by the light of the fixed north star—only by the Divine Heart and Mind.

Here is the SOURCE of your power when you feel you are without power to cross that bridge you are creating.

Last Tuesday, The NY Times carried a long feature story – “*Ten Lives Interrupted—The Voices of Americans searching for survival and reinvention amid an economic collapse.*”

A college student graduating into a recession!

A mother of three furloughed from her hotel housekeeping job!

A veteran without a job for the first time!

their stories meet at a uncertain crossroads summed up in their combined expression:

My struggles are ongoing, and they have not been overcome.

I recognize the sacrifices and challenges that I face personally, but have no clue how to correct them in this period of my life.

We got a dog—just like the rest of America—a rescue dog,

Dog is God spelled backwards, you know.

Lulu the Wonder Dog is her name.

I just figure if I can't find the sunshine, then I need to be the sunshine.

I value my hope and choose courage in the face of the unknown.

A rocket! A spaceship!

A bridge you must build!

To know what you will build, you must start building.

Navigating a partly sunk boat!

Our last image is a video from Aurora, Colorado.

Perhaps you have seen it.

An African American mother's 6 and 12 year old daughters and her 12 and 17 year old nieces are face down on a parking lot with police officers pointing guns at them.

Two girls are handcuffed.

The mother is being led away in handcuffs.

The girls are crying and screaming.

"I want my mother." cries one.

"Can I have my sister next to me." cries another.

Later, the police release all five, say it was a mistake, and issue an apology to the family.

That's not enough! Not even close!

They—and we!—need power!

Paul Butler, author of *Chokehold* and a former US Attorney, now Georgetown University Law Professor, argues that this kind of incident is not a mistake.

The specific mix up over license plates is a mistake—but the Law and Order policy which causes this kind of incident to happen over and over again is not a mistake.

And it is not even law and order because this kind of pervasive policing policy of terrorizing African Americans, acting as though surveillance of African American communities is omnipresent, and arresting African Americans—especially young black men— at alarming rates—in order to get them into the system for further surveillance and control—doesn't solve the real crimes that are taking place.

This is a major reason why we are calling to end this law and order policy and—within the context of policing—replace it with a transformative protect and serve policy.

The arrest of this family in Aurora, the way it was handled, would not happen to a white family—because according to Paul Butler—the purpose of law and order policing—starting far above the actual police on the ground— is meant to exert domination over the black community.

He calls it a modern extension of slavery.

Those 4 girls with their faces down on the parking lot, and their mother being led away in handcuffs—deserve that apology from the police chief. That's good. But it's not enough.

They need power.

Where will power come from?

First, you—and millions of people are now witnesses to this and other similar incidents of anti-blackness.

Now you need to become loving witnesses.

Love—especially agape love—Jesus following love—involves forming an intention to pay attention to another person, other people.

Together—in acts of shared, mutual love, we create power.

This is how Christianity began, you know.

People who were witnesses to Jesus' work and Jesus death began to share their experiences of him with others.

First it was the eyewitnesses who did this message spreading.

Eventually, due to the authenticity of the message, those who were not eyewitnesses—like Paul or Lydia or Silas—but who grasped the message—became loving witnesses themselves.

You need to love that Aurora family and the families of George Floyd and Rashard Brooks and Breonna Taylor and others like them by paying attention to your relationship with them and others like them in your own community.

And you need to help them and yourself and your own neighbors gain power by loving each other enough to change the policies and laws that actually promote this sort of injustice.

Let's build the bridge that will enable us to cross the river that leads from slavery to freedom and equality in our national life.

No one can do it for us. We have to build our own bridge. Start walking. Keep walking!

Let's create the power to make the changes we all need in these decisive hours!

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