

TRINITY NEWS

October 24, 2010

Pentecost 22 Ask, and it will be given you.

I have read Gary Null's book *Living the Present Moment*. It has some fresh thought and some memorable quotes. It also has a good section on the book *The Secret* and the assumptions undergirding Rhonda Byrne's thinking. It talks about the soul and God, but it has a gaping hole in it. That is, one is left longing for some real spiritual perception or relationship with God. God has become a Universal Supermarket, full of goodies that we can construct with our own positive thinking.

The Gospels offer some support for the power of our own thinking in the creation of our destiny. The benefits of accessing the Secret and the following book *The Power* are tied to positive repetition of one's own thought pictures of our desires and needs. This is not linked to a clear belief in God or the ethical consequences of our own desires and needs. *The Secret* and *The Power* replace God with a more impersonal "Universe" which is set up to meet our every need. Negative thinking brings negative results. Positive thinking shorn of negatives brings positive results. We only have to ask. The motto is: "Thought constructs things" or "thought becomes things". The word "God" can be substituted for "Universe, but belief in God is not necessary. If you want wealth, good health, success and a wonderful life, just ask!

I am excited about the promises Christ made about prayer. He tells us to ask big things of God and to expect results. Some of what is said in *The Secret* and books such as *Infinite Possibilities* is exciting and true! When I put the power of positive pictures in a Christian framework, I find Matthew 7: 7-11 very helpful.

"Ask, and it will be given you; Search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you; for everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone? Or if the child asks for a fish, will give a snake? It then, you who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him?"

Luke's handling of this passage on prayer found at Matthew 7: 7-11 is at Luke 11: 9-13. The setting in Matthew is the Sermon on the Mount. Luke has it follow the example of perseverance in prayer at Luke 11: 5-8. Luke also has it as if the child should ask for an egg and then receive a scorpion. These stark examples serve to emphasize the consistent generosity of the Father. Jesus expects his Father in heaven to demonstrate enormous generosity to his children on earth. This is not only reassuring. It is also a glorious "promise". "Father" is more personal than the vague "Universe". It is displayed at its poignant best in the Father in the Parable of the Lost Son and in the prayers of Jesus to his heavenly Father.

The promises made by Christ are the voice of God to us. They should lead to a resurgence of Christian prayer. It seems to me that Christians qualify too much in their prayers. We should expect what we ask for to happen. According to Christ, God wants it to happen! So should we!

Some circles in Christianity have criticized those who have apparently received no response to their prayers. They are said not to have enough faith or to have some sinful hindrance etc. There is no need whatsoever for such criticism, which in this matter and others akin to it is highly presumptuous and even arrogant. We all know that negatives beget negatives, whereas positives create hope and vision. All that is needed is an encouragement to trust even more! We may not get what we want, but we will be more likely to want what we get and to go on living in faith and trust!

Bishop Arthur Jones

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Ecclesiasticus 2:6-11; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:15-23; Luke 6:20-26

Your prayers are asked in our healing ministry for Diana Croyston, JPeter, Beryl Tanner, Ron Thoburn, Suzanne Jacobson, Cena Quiapos, Ron Jacob, Bonnie SyCip, Fidelia Matthews, Jovel Llagas, Ted Whale, Ema Duhaylongsod, Loy Solasco, Emerinciana Gatela, Amy Gonzales, Carrie Angus, Augusto Natividad, Avelina Collado, Eric Williamson, Susan Dalmas, Carlyn-Fern Manning, Richard Kendall, Jaqueline Acquiatan, Johnny Manning Jr, Sunny Cabanang, Valerie Jones, Gloria Domingo, Katsi Araneta, Emilie Nauntofte, Marian Kermanshahchi, Rosaline Soulsby, Fr. Barry Cumberland, Divinagracia Benitez, Les Vye-Parminter.

TO PLAN:

Oct. 24, TODAY.

- Confirmation Class, 9:30am.

Oct. 25, Monday.

- NATIONAL HOLIDAY (Bry./SK Election). Office closed.

Oct. 26, Tuesday.

- Bible Study, 10am
- Bible Study, 7:15pm, #3 Sta. Potenciana St., Urdaneta Vil.

Oct. 28, Thursday.

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am.

Oct. 31. **All Saints' Sunday**

Nov. 1, Monday.

- All Souls' Day Service, 7:00 p.m.

	Last Sunday	Year-to-date	Proportionate Budget	2010 Budget
Pledge	P42,750.00	P2,973,875.14	P3,150,000.00	P3,900,000.00
Loose Plate	P11,320.00	P697,903.73	P759,230.77	P940,000.00

The church's monthly **Sources & Uses** report is available for viewing in the Church Office. Please look for Maricel. For questions, feel free to email Edison at edisonyap@gmail.com