



Freedom to Not Change a Thing, Including Traditions

Freedom Notes, speaks to other aspects of freedom of choice. Just as one who is inwardly free has freedom of choice to live life in non-traditional ways, that person also has the choice to continue living in traditional ways. Inwardly, freedom is entirely free. In order to best reflect that inner freedom, any path of outward choices and behavior is available. There is no "should do this" or "shouldn't do that" involved. However, the more open one is to awareness of reality, which awareness actually "is" freedom, the more likely it is that one will live their life according to influence from that freedom. That does not necessarily mean they will live in non-traditional ways however; for influence guides according to that which is good outside a context of "good and evil", and for a given person in a given situation in the world, living in traditional ways might be best for them and those people they are in relationships with. Freedom need not unnecessarily jeopardize people or cause extremes of discomfort or pain in order to express.

From that one who seems lowest to that one who seems highest...

All Together are One Peace

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS

**Freedom is in that WE ALWAYS ARE the Reality of Peace
Even When Behaviors Suggest Otherwise**

Together, We Must Open Up and Allow
Remembrance of Love Arising from Peace in ALL our Interactions
and Remember that the Peace We Are Can and Will Guide Us

*Why? Because Remembrance Influences Our Attitude
and Rather than our Behaviors Determining Tomorrow
Our Attitude is a Projector...Projecting What We Wish to See Tomorrow!*
**Do Unto Others Must Start with "Love One Another" and Include Everyone
and Must Arise from Peace Rather than Judgment...
Calling to That Peace in Each One and Inviting it to Resurface**

Another aspect of freedom is found in the behavioral paths of people considered to be dark or criminal in how they live, sometimes being extremely cruel and controlling. While it is believed that these people are less worthy of love, and are people to be feared and avoided, the opposite is true. Everyone, including these people, need to...and need others to...love one another, needing also to open up to trusting one another. This is the key to dissolving the harsh negativity in the world. The more people punish and avoid, the more they ensure that the very things and people they are resisting and avoiding will continue to be generated by those same judgments, requesting them to come along in their world. What we focus on and what we vehemently resist is reinforced, remembered in memory in ways which are more readily recalled and connected with emotional locking triggers. If you would like your own self to improve (in your view), open to awareness and discover loving yourself. If you would like those around you to improve, do the same.

To see Peace, Rediscover that Peace is What We Together Are.

**Peace comes to the world in absolutely no other way, for it is impossible for peace
to arise from striving and from that which seems to be other than peace. You
cannot plan peace, teach peace, or make your doing to become peace.**

It is already present, just beyond perception's view.

Relax • Allow • Trust • Await the Appearance of the Best

We can choose to strive to overcome what our eyes tell us of the fatal attraction we have to "good and evil" and our pride in our beliefs and judgments. Or we can relax our determination, open our hearts and know the truth that makes glad. Righteousness is not required. Love is however, as it leads us directly to its source. There is no conflict to be resolved. There is only the love we share...or withhold. The entire world suffers because we've made a single choice to diverge from the love that arises from peace. We need not choose differently, but simply need to relinquish our grasp upon the falsehood which that choice offers us.

The problems we face do not arise before us because we adore this world,
but because we close our eyes and hearts to readily available
and ongoing perfect creation and governance of our world.

Religions are Not Paths to Peace, and Yet...I Walk with the Lord — How is this?

When everything in my life had become dark and painful, and when I'd given up on myself...there, at that very moment I began to notice a distinct presence simply showing me interesting things. No belief or doctrinal "pushy" stuff, just things to consider. It is for that reason that many subjects discussed on this site are referred to as "Things to Consider". I was incarcerated at the time, and there were periods when fearful things were going on and it looked like I might not make it. Because this presence was there, and seemed to always be with me, I held onto it, thinking of it as the God of my religious beliefs from my childhood. And yet, I couldn't understand why this God would be there for me when my life was in such turmoil (which I had caused). It would be many years before it became clear that this presence was actually my own reality...and the reality of all people everywhere.

I could still call it God, but the beliefs about that term in no way match this wonder I found within. After quite some time, I began to realize that it was 100% unconditional in its offering of both comforting presence and insightful guidance. With no condemnation or sense of urgency, it gently nudged me along from being someone who truly hated myself, being frequently confused and hurting others, to being someone who loved himself and others and had an amazing sense of clarity growing within me. This new self-image and confidence proved able to change my entire life and outlook, and eventually began to bless others around me, even though I still found myself freely engaging in non-traditional ways.

This presence is the Lord of my life and never leaves my side, even when I ignore it. Religions speak of such a wonder, and yet teach things that lead people further and further away from its discovery. I find that this saddens me, and yet I know that my being sad is uncalled for...because the freedom that this presence and reality is in each one, is and must be entirely free for that person to discover. It cannot be taught. Still, I speak of it in hopes that here and there, someone will read between the lines, open their hearts and quietly look for that presence which is not a belief, but instead is their living reality. Everyone is its messenger and more poignantly so as they relax their traditional, prideful and often fearful beliefs, and allow their heart to be shown the truth of our oneness with that presence.

"...ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss..."

James 4:2-3

As I grew up in a family strongly believing in Christianity's message and doctrines, I heard this passage from time to time. Because of the way it is worded and is focused on lust for the things of this world, it seemed that it meant asking for the right things, or only for things you need. Not a bad way to look at it, and yet I find it goes much deeper than this.

Although the writers of the books in the Bible were concerned about people's behaviors and choices, as I listened within over several decades to the influence of the presence of reality, the following emerged as the more important meaning...not to their writings as an interpretation, but in terms of what is true about asking and receiving, and what "asking amiss" actually is.

The presence within does not judge us about our behavior. Instead, it gently nudges us toward relaxing our judgmental beliefs, that we might more easily see our path to truth with clarity. Spirit, or this presence, coaxes toward that which one needs to discover. So "ye have not" this needed discovery, "because ye ask not" for this. Instead, "Ye ask, and receive [it] not, because ye ask amiss".

Spirit is what you are. When you pause and look within, without your judgments (or beliefs) in tow, you discover that you are one with that presence...the ultimate truth being that you actually "are" that presence. It is your reality. That is why it is said that you are in God and God is in you. That being the case, despite the needs and lack you perceive in the world, the truth shows that *in your reality*, you lack nothing. So "asking" is not thinking about what your perceived needs are, then mentally or verbally putting those thoughts forward, calling that a prayer, and waiting for God to fulfill your wish list.

People do that, and some have occurrences in their lives which to them indicate that God answered their prayers...sometimes very dramatically, such as healing of a major injury or disease. Because of this, it is very understandable that people believe this is what is going on, and that this is a miracle. And yet, a miracle can only be miraculous to the extent that it moves your mind and heart into open communion with this presence...not because of an occurrence that appears to be miraculously meeting needs. When people do this and believe in this way, they ignore or overlook the fact that huge numbers of people pray to have their perceived needs met every single day, and receive nothing. In BOTH cases, these people are praying amiss, that they might consume it upon their lusts. Lusts refers to the things of this world, its perceived needs, etc.

Just how to ask and not ask amiss eludes us for a very simple reason. When we ask, we ask in terms of our perceived views about what is lacking. And yet, our reality...or that which we've come to call God, is not lacking at all...and neither are we. If we understood this, we would not need to ask to have lack or needs fulfilled. One might then wonder just what is asking without asking amiss.

Other than continuing as before, perhaps the better question to ask is, "If in reality I have everything, why am I asking at all?" But when one perceives need all around, that doesn't exactly cut it. The answer however is simple. As one turns within, not to ask about a doctrine, not to ask about a perceived need, not to ask about something one is confused about, not even to "get closer to God"...but instead with empty hands, or a mind (at least momentarily) emptied of beliefs and things needing to be answered...then the mind is ready to receive that which is actually offered. Relax into the presence that is freely and quietly there. Do this regularly, and as you go within often, you begin to recognize that this presence is actually there, and is not just a figment of a hopeful imagination. You do not need to "ask" anything of it, but simply need to go there and be attentive, thereby facilitating discovery of the presence of your reality. As you do this, you become more aware of it, and as that awareness increases, it influences your thoughts, feelings and perceptions in the world around you. As time goes on, you may well notice that needs seem to get met more and more automatically, and that perception of needs occurs in mind less and less. Sitting quietly and being attentive within to that presence which is there...which is God...which is you...IS ASKING WITHOUT ASKING AMISS. It is not actually "asking" per se, for you gradually arrive at that place within yourself where that kind of asking is not necessary. Simply remaining in remembrance of your reality and putting that remembrance first in your life, replaces asking.

Then prayer is less about asking for things to get better, and is more about trusting in that presence you notice. It meets the only need you've ever had...that of (re-)discovering the presence of your reality. And as this awareness arises, it also influences everything about you and your perceived world...and any perceived needs. It does not literally ask you to come unto it, because you are already there. And yet, as one reimmerses oneself in that presence (*a baptism*), the experience of what seems like a reentering, *feels as though* it is welcoming you home. And indeed you "are" welcome, and you "are" home, and ever shall be.