

# Seven Values To Live By

by Norman Vincent Peale

## INTRODUCTION

VALUE: A PRINCIPLE THAT REFLECTS AN IDEAL MORAL STANDARD BY WHICH INDIVIDUALS GUIDE THEIR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS, AND FROM WHICH SOCIETY AS A WHOLE ULTIMATELY BENEFITS.

How would you define real success in life? In the minds of many Americans, success means the making of a great deal of money or achieving fame and recognition. But haven't we all known people, who, possessing a great deal of money, fame, or both, are failures? And haven't we all seen people with little money who are great successes?

The standards of true success are these: Are you in control of yourself? Are you happy? Are you developing your spiritual life? Do you get a thrill out of everyday living? Do you know God? Are you held in esteem by other people? If money comes to you along with all these values, that is good. But money should not be your main goal. Achieving a happy, satisfying, and fulfilling life is what you really should focus on.

The next question is, how do you do this?

First, select and adopt a set of values. Then, dedicate yourself to living by them. The rewards of living by specific values are enormous and gratifying.

It has been determined, based on many years of experience and evaluation, that there are seven basic values which, when carefully and diligently applied, will bring happiness, satisfaction, and success to any man or woman, regardless of age or circumstance.

*Seven Values To Live By* contains seven chapters, each of which highlights one value. Read each chapter thoroughly and study the value described. Then take the action steps that follow and practice them on a daily basis.

This will not be easy, but the task is not impossible. Once attained, these values will produce happiness, and a sterling character as well. So if you want to be continuously victorious over your problems, study and resolutely master each value: Integrity, Courage, Enthusiasm, Happiness, Faith, Hope, Love, and make them part of your life. You will achieve success beyond anything you have ever experienced before.

When you get discouraged, there is one thing you must practice. It is that priceless ingredient of success: relentless effort. Never give up, never quit.

The world needs men and women who will personally do something constructive about wrong conditions.

There's a call for people who will respond positively to challenges with a "Here am I—send me," and then wade right in. Such people can bring about important changes in situations, and thereby set in motion forces that make for corresponding changes in the world at large. Thank God, it is still true that a few dedicated people can change the world.

## 1

### INTEGRITY

#### FIRM ADHERENCE TO A CODE OF MORAL VALUES

Complete honesty, complete integrity, is almost tangible. Whenever you encounter it in people, you know you can trust them. This ability to inspire trust and confidence is often a factor in their success.

Many highly successful people seem to live by what might be called a code of super-honesty. They're not satisfied with casual, everyday standards. They go an extra mile. They make the unusual choice.

One of the best ways to strengthen your standards of honesty is to speak out forcibly against dishonesty wherever you come into contact with it. We all tend to condone things by keeping silent, afraid we'll be disliked or that we may be considered smug or self-righteous.

Once, when speaking before a large crowd, my attention became fixed on a face that reflected great anguish. The man continued to appear in the crowd at talks I gave around New York City.

Then, one day, I met him on the street and he said, "I have to tell you something. Could we talk?"

I fixed a time for us to meet. He arrived at the appointed hour and launched into this story:

"You do not know me. In my hometown, I am a prominent, highly respected citizen. I have a wonderful wife who regards me as a good husband, and my children think I am a fine father."

"Well, are you?" I asked. "Are you all that good?"

He gulped and said, "No. I'm a thief and I can't tell anyone at home about it. I have got to find relief."

"Be explicit. What did you steal? Was it money?"

Then he told me. "The president of the company where I work as treasurer is like a father to me. But I got in over my head on personal financial matters and began to siphon money from the company."

"How much?" I asked.

"Well, I kept an exact account. With interest, it would be fifty-two-thousand dollars. Dr. Peale, I've thought of suicide, but I haven't the nerve."

“What if you confessed this to your president?”

“He would lose respect for me. I would be ruined and disgraced. If it came out, my wife and children would be disgraced, too. Why did I do it? I have been decent all my life, except for this moral failure.”

“When do you go back home?”

“Tonight, on the sleeper train.”

“What time do you get there?”

“Seven o’clock tomorrow morning.”

“What time does your bank open?”

“Nine o’clock.”

“How much have you in the bank?”

“I have ten-thousand dollars, to meet my obligations, including college expenses for two children.”

“Do this. Monday morning, be the first man in the bank, and write out a check for five-thousand dollars in cash. Then go to your place of business.”

“I can’t do it,” he said. “I can’t do it.”

“It will do you good. You will be rid of your guilt. Say to your president, ‘I have come to confess. I was under pressure and “borrowed” this money and quite a bit more. I meant to pay it back. Now, I want to start doing that. I went to see a preacher in New York City, who told me to throw myself upon your understanding. I’m ashamed and humiliated.’ “

Before he left, I had convinced him to give this procedure a try. As the man told me later, the president looked at the money and was silent. Then he spoke: “You have been in hell, haven’t you? When a good man does wrong, he carries hell around with him. I trust you that the whole debt will be paid. And here is what I am going to do about you. I’m going to put you in charge of sales. Mr. Smith is retiring. You will be our new sales manager. Go and sin no more.”

My new friend ended his report by declaring, “My president is the greatest man alive.”

Integrity relates to character, honesty, and fidelity, all products of accepting God’s standards for right living. Remember, nothing wrong ever turns out right.

The president treated my friend kindly. He said, “You are a good man despite your wrongdoing. You have learned your lesson.”

When my friend, overwhelmed by gratitude, asked how he could repay this kindness, the president replied, “By being a great sales manager. Besides,” he added, “our business is God’s business.”

This is a story about integrity, theft, guilt, conscience, honesty, confession, forgiveness, and kindness.

It is a story that turns out well. It is a story of value, for it shows the value of integrity.

## Action Steps

1. When you are on a course of dishonesty, stop it at once, no excuses, no delaying tactics.
2. Discuss your involvement with a pastor, priest, or rabbi.
3. Rebuild your moral strength.
4. Get forgiveness from the person wronged and from God, and then find release by forgiving yourself, thus putting it in the past.
5. Right the wrong fully and resolve never to be dishonest again.

*“The one thing worth living for is to keep one’s soul pure.”*

—Marcus Aurelius

## 2

## COURAGE

### STRENGTH TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT REGARDLESS OF THE CONSEQUENCES

**S**uccessful living requires courage. Moments may come when courage alone will stand between us and disaster. There will be times when we shall need dogged courage to keep us going when the going is hard. And what is the source of such rugged courage? It is a sense of God’s presence, when we hear Him say, “I am with you always.”

To have courage, do three things: First, think courage. We become what we think. If you think thoughts of courage, courage will flow to you. The more courageous your thinking, the greater the results will be. Second, act courageously. We usually get according to the way we act. And we all have built into us a capacity for acting with courage. Third, pray for courage. Pray for courage as you pray for your daily bread. God will give it to you, because He will give you Himself.

Gladys Aylward was a little person. Seated, her feet scarcely touched the floor. But she had pure and undoubting faith in God. She came to see me in New York City. I wondered how this quiet petite lady had the courage to face the terrifying experiences that were shown in the motion picture “Inn of the Sixth Happiness.” As she visited me, I asked her to tell me the story.

At a Salvation Army street meeting, in London, she became converted, completely changing her life. The gentleman for whom she worked in London had a wonderful library on China, and she began reading.

One day, her employer came in, found her reading, and reproached her. He said, "I hired you to dust and clean, not to read my books. Besides, you didn't ask if you might read my books."

"Sir," she said, "I am fascinated with China."

"Read the books then, but not until after you get the housework done," he replied.

Through her reading, Gladys came to believe that God wanted her to go as a missionary to China. She went to the mission board. The members, all highly educated church leaders, gave her an intellectual test she couldn't pass. They said: "No, you do not measure up to our standards. You can't go." But did that faze her? Not at all. She had received her commission from a higher source than a mission board.

So Gladys Aylward went to China without any sponsorship, and was now sitting in my study telling me about the times she spent on the streets in Yangchuan and other cities. Week after week, the tiny British cockney woman told the people that no power on earth could overcome the person who gave his or her life to God and Jesus Christ. That person would become a resurrected soul and could triumph over the world.

One day, the governor called her, saying, "We have a terrible situation. There is a riot in the prison where murderers and vicious men are guarded by only twelve soldiers. If we go in, they will kill us. One of the worst men in the prison has a huge meat cleaver, and has already killed two men. We want you to go in and take the meat cleaver out of his hands."

"You must be out of your mind, sir," she said.

"I have listened to you in the street saying that God is always with you, about Daniel and the lion's den, and how Jesus Christ in your heart will protect you."

"Ah, but you misunderstand, sir."

"Haven't you been telling the truth?" he replied. "I know what you've said, and I believed you."

She knew that if she ever wanted people to believe, she would have to go into that prison. She asked the Lord to go with her and she felt strangely peaceful. After unlocking the prison door, they quickly shut her in. There, at the end of a long, narrow tunnel she could see men wildly running about shouting and cursing. She prayed, "Be with me, Lord."

She walked to the end of the tunnel and saw the man with the meat cleaver, which was dripping with blood, chasing another man. Suddenly, he was in front of her. They stood facing each other: the little woman and the giant. She looked into his wild and feverish eyes and calmly said, "Give me that weapon." There was a moment of hesitation; then, with utter docility, he handed it

to her. "Now," she said, "get in line, all of you." Quietly, they lined up.

What are your complaints?" she asked. "I will tell them to the governor, and I assure you in his name that, where possible, they will be corrected."

As a believer, Gladys Aylward found unbelievable courage. Her secret can be found in a Scripture verse from the Psalms that gives a formula anyone can follow to find courage in any situation:

"I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears" (Psalm 34:4).

## Action Steps

1. Always be faithful to your principles and values. It may require guts to stand by them, but that is the way to build your courage.
2. Pray for courage as you pray for your daily bread. Both are vital to your welfare.
3. Courage comes naturally from spiritual commitment. So become spiritually committed.
4. Courage is dependent upon the strength of your commitment to Jesus Christ, so deepen that commitment.

*"Courage is the resistance to fear, mastery of fear<sup>3/4</sup> not absence of fear."*

—Mark Twain

## 3

## ENTHUSIASM

### PASSION FOR LIFE

**A** member of my church in New York was one of the most successful—and enthusiastic—men I have ever known.

Asked the secret of his long-lived vitality, he replied, "Well, it's like this: You taught me to love God, to love people, and to love life. And to keep my mind and spirit always renewed and at a high level. I followed your advice, and the result has been enthusiasm and happiness that never run down."

There is the basic answer to the problem of keeping enthusiasm. Be renewed in the spirit of your mind. The Apostle Paul believed that this renewal had great power

to change life habits, for he wrote, “Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

I once met an enthusiastic lady who told me that every morning she reads a statement by Thoreau that hangs on the wall of her kitchen: “None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm.” It became a mental pattern for her life.

Emerson wrote: “Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.” And a prominent businessman once said, “Every business organization should have a vice president in charge of constant renewal.”

If that is good for a business, surely it is more important for an individual to have an automatic self-motivator that keeps him alive and vibrant. Enthusiasm puts a person into the present, regardless of how many years he has lived. Such a vitalized individual cannot possibly become a has-been. He is perpetually the is-now type.

A friend who operated a drugstore, Mr. Russ, once told me of his personal battles with discouragement, difficulties, reverses, and sorrows. “I can tell you honestly,” he declared, “that since I began a certain mental and spiritual practice, I have never had any lasting discouragement. And I’m sure you will agree I’m on the enthusiastic side.”

“I don’t know a man of more genuine enthusiasm than yourself,” I replied. “What is this mental and spiritual practice that helped you?”

“Daily mental ventilation,” he replied. “That’s what did it and, I may add, still does it. Keeping the mind free of darkness is a day-to-day job.”

He went on to emphasize the importance of the process of daily mind-emptying. “If you allow dark thoughts, regrets, resentments, and the like to accumulate, your whole psychology can, in time, be so adversely affected that a major effort may be required to bring it back to a normal state of balance.”

Since then, I have used the mental ventilation system employed daily by Mr. Russ, both personally and in other cases, with effective results in stimulating new enthusiasm. Here’s what he did. At the end of every day, he “emptied” his mind to prevent unhealthy thoughts from lodging in consciousness overnight, for he knew such thoughts can take root quickly, if allowed to accumulate even for as long as 24 hours:

This mental emptying took the form of a recapitulation of unpleasant incidents that had occurred during the day: a sharp word, a hostile act by some other person. Also, a review of his own mistakes, errors, or stupidities. To these, he added disappointments, frustrations, and every form of unhappiness that had clouded the preceding hours. He held all these in a strong mental view, deliberately drawing from them all the experience and understanding they had to give. Then he “lumped” them together and mentally “dropped” them out of consciousness, saying, as he did so, these therapeutic words: “For-

getting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before . . . ” (Philippians 3:13).

Mr. Russ stated that when he first began to use his “lumping” and “dropping” practice, the mental accumulation, as he put it, readily “lumped” but just did not “drop.” However, the continued application of a determined and disciplined mental effort resulted in a remarkable ability to forget the useless and unhealthy items that had previously cluttered his mind, siphoning off zest and enthusiasm. In these procedures, Mr. Russ made use of the law that one can do practically anything he wants with his thoughts, provided he consistently continues the effort.

“You cannot possibly realize, until you try it for yourself, what a powerful upthrust of joy surges through your being when you find that you can actually ‘lump’ and ‘drop’ those pesky enemies of a happy mind,” he declared. “Ventilate—that’s the answer. Let them go; throw them out.” By so doing, the mind will be open to developing the great value of enthusiasm.

### Action Steps

1. Become enthusiastic by practicing the “as if” principle. Act “as if” you were enthusiastic, and you will become enthusiastic.
2. Begin each day thinking enthusiastic thoughts.
3. Picture yourself as being the most enthusiastic person you know.
4. Enthusiasm is catching, so surround yourself with enthusiastic people.
5. Every day, three times a day, say: “This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

“ *Enthusiasm is a kind of faith that has been set afire.* ”  
—George Matthew Adams

## HAPPINESS

### STATE OF WELL-BEING AND CONTENTMENT

In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson described our country as favoring unalienable rights: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. It is therefore a favorite objective of the American to be happy.

I have found, personally, that happiness is religiously based. All the unhappiness I have encountered in life has been where men and women lived otherwise than according to the precepts of Holy Scripture.

I have seen unhappy people fully adopt the teachings of Jesus Christ and become happy ever after. So I conclude that spiritual faith, hope, and love are involved in the state of mind we call happiness.

In reviewing a recent book, *The Pursuit of Happiness* by David G. Myers, a distinguished social psychologist, Peter Gomer, wrote in a recent issue of the *Chicago Tribune*: “Myers, a respected scholar, measured people’s feelings of happiness. He found, after reviewing thousands of studies, ‘that people who are energetic, decisive, flexible, creative, and sociable are happy. They are more trusting, more loving, more responsive than unhappy people. They tolerate frustration well, and are more willing to help others. Even their immune systems function better. Physical fitness is important, as are such traits as self-esteem and optimism. Science has found that close friends bring happiness, but money and possessions won’t.’ ”

So important is happiness that a Southern university, some years ago, offered a special course for alumni in how to be a good-humored person. This course, I understand, was popularly received. Good humor means to have an inner sense of affability and geniality. It is an attitude of urbanity and kindness. It was, in a sense, a course in happiness.

Not long ago, I was with a man who was tops in his profession. On his 70th birthday, I asked him what was the most important discovery he had made in business that accounted for his success. As we walked on Walnut Street in Philadelphia, he turned to face me. “A good question,” he said, “and I can answer you instantaneously. I learned to get and keep a good-humored attitude toward life. To be explicit, I became genuinely happy when I met someone who changed me deep inside. And when I became happy and good-humored, I found less resistance to my business leadership. People started going along with me rather than opposing me.”

I was curious, for my friend was an outstanding thinker and leader, professionally. But I had heard that he once had been dictatorial and difficult, even though he was a recognized genius. So I asked, “Where did you meet this amazing person who had the ability to make such a change in you?” (I was thinking of myself when I asked him that.)

Copyright © 1992 by Peale Center for Christian Living.

“At the old Conwell Baptist Church on Broad Street, where you, too, have met Him.”

There is always a reason why people act as they do. If they are unhappy within themselves, that will be demonstrated in their emotional reactions, which are likely to be too quick. In the controlled person, they are slow. Reaction is slower in the happy personality because he likes the other fellow.

Emotion must be deliberate. The Roman philosopher Seneca said, “The greatest cure for anger is delay.” One man, a happy and successful fellow, told me that he never gets mad until 24 hours afterward. He waits to cool down. You can do that when you live by the principle, “Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; fret not thyself . . . ” (Psalm 37:7).

I like the story about the late Robert Taft, the revered U.S. Senator from Ohio. In his early political career, Senator Taft went into hostile territory to make a speech. Someone threw an over-ripe tomato. It hit the Senator in the chest and burst all over his face, his glasses, and his hair.

How did he react? He did not wipe his face, his glasses, or his hair. He just went on making his speech. He never referred to the tomato. When he finished, he stepped down from the platform and, with his handkerchief, wiped his face, and then his glasses.

“Good-by, boys,” he said in a friendly manner.

As he walked down the aisle toward the door, the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

A controlled person controls. A controlled person is deeply happy and can handle difficult situations.

### Action Steps

1. Happiness comes from knowing you can handle things. Practice being confident, and happiness will follow.
2. To be happy, find a human need and help fill it.
3. Take Jesus, the greatest giver of happiness the world has ever known, into your heart. His presence in your life will bring you joy and happiness.
4. Be happy about your struggles. They can bring you untold satisfaction as you conquer them.
5. Emotional control results in happiness. Do not allow the heat of the moment to get the best of you.

“There is no happiness in having or getting, but only in giving.”

—Henry Drummond

## FAITH

### BELIEF AND TRUST IN GOD

**T**he bible has a lot to say about values to live by. Perhaps the greatest statement is found in 1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.” The last three of our seven values will be faith, hope, and love.

The Bible is full of principles that can change your life. One of them is Matthew 17:20, “If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove: and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Almighty God never meant that His highest creature, man, should be a failure. Have you ever been conscious of your own greatness? Have you ever glimpsed what is really within you?

The science of psychology has stated that we have within us something called the subconscious mind. William James, the father of American psychology, said: “The greatest discovery in one hundred years is the discovery of the power of the subconscious mind.”

The deep impulses that motivate us come from the subconscious. It is what Jesus referred to in the statement: “The kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21). When Jesus said, “Greater works than these shall He do” (John 14:12), He was saying: “Think big to get big results.” The sad reality is that most of us never set our sights as high as Jesus intended we should.

The reason we do not attain more in our lives is because we do not believe in ourselves. If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, nothing shall be impossible. That means that you can get the mountain of failure, frustration, sin, and hate out of the way and, in short, “nothing shall be impossible unto you.”

Come out of disbelief in yourself. Believe that God made you a good person and let it come out of you.

While autographing books in a San Francisco bookstore, the most obese woman I think I had ever seen stood before me.

“If I buy your book, will you guarantee that the slender person within me will come out?”

I answered, “No, that will only happen if you believe that a slender person is within you, and that God can bring it out. God has not made you what you are. You have done that to yourself. Can you look me in the eye and say, ‘I believe, I believe’?”

She said, “I can do that, with God’s help.”

I answered excitedly, “A great lady is living within you. What date will you give me that you will be slender?”

“A year from today;” she replied confidently.

A little over a year passed, and I was shaking hands with members of the audience following a meeting in Los Angeles. A lady appeared before me in the long line. She said, “Remember that huge woman who talked to you in San Francisco about a year ago?”

I answered, “She was the biggest lady I ever saw.”

“Well, look carefully, for I am she.” She added, “Praise God. He and I have worked a miracle on me.”

Whatever personality you have created can be changed. There is a better, stronger, more remarkable man or woman within you. You will never be happy until you bring him or her out of you.

Faith is available to everyone. It does not matter what your difficulty or deficiency is: physical, mental, spiritual, business, or moral; if you bear upon it, using the power of faith, it can be solved. The Bible is filled to overflowing with the truth that faith conquers all and that, by faith, all things are achieved. The secret, then, of building yourself a better future is to attack it with faith.

If you will definitely set aside five minutes every day to think about God and Jesus Christ, to confess your sins, to pray for those who have done wrong against you, and to ask for strength, a true faith will begin to send spiritual health and power through your personality.

### Action Steps

**1.** Believe! By having faith, you can bring out all the greatness in yourself. Believe that God made you in His image, higher than any other form of creation.

**2.** Act upon that belief. Assume that, because it is true, you can believe in yourself as a child of God.

**3.** Copy from the Bible every statement of faith you can find. Then proceed to embed these faith concepts into your consciousness.

**4.** Join other like-minded people to create out of an imperfect society a state of affairs called the Kingdom of God.

**5.** Believe in impossibilities; that which is impossible with man is possible with God.

*“Faith is like radar that sees through the fog<sup>3/4</sup>the reality of things at a distance that the human eye cannot see.”*

—Corrie ten Boom

## HOPE

## EXPECTATION OF SUCCESS

**T**He second great value from 1 Corinthians 13 is hope.

When you live with hope in your heart, in your mind, and in your spirit, you have discovered one of life's most powerful secrets of success.

Did you ever hear of the sermon that was made into a statue? In a big-city church, the preacher, a powerful speaker, gave a sermon depicting hope as a struggle upward against adversity, with hope triumphing.

A famous sculptor in the congregation that day was so deeply impressed, he went to his studio and molded a man struggling upward from the trials and temptations that would hold him back. The inscription on the marble base of the statue read: "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him" (Psalm 42:5).

Elbert Hubbard, one of the greatest inspirational writers this country has ever produced, wrote:

"Whenever you go out of doors, draw the chin in, carry your head high, fill the lungs, drink in the sunshine, greet your friends with a smile, put soul into every handclasp. Picture in your mind the able, earnest, useful person you desire to be. This thought will transform you into that particular individual. We become like that on which our thoughts are fixed."

The lesson here is to get hope into your thought pattern and there will be nothing you cannot overcome.

Life is often fraught with pain and suffering. But hope takes you above the suffering. Storms sweep down upon us, but if you hope in God, the storms will pass. "Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God" (Psalm 42:11).

After the death of my grandparents, Mrs. Grace Williams purchased our family home and lived there for many years. I would always go to see her when I visited Lynchburg, Ohio.

During one visit, I mentioned that I was attached to the old-fashioned doorbell that I could remember twirling as a boy. Well, a few days after arriving back in New York City, I received a package. And there was the bell. Mrs. Williams had sent it to me.

The first time I visited Mrs. Williams, she had answered the door and said, "You are one of the Peales, aren't you?"

"Yes," I replied.

"Which one are you, Norman or Robert?"

"I am Norman."

"Ah ha!" she said. "Do I know you! Your name is written all over my wallpaper. As a youngster, you ap-

parently believed in advertising." From that day on, Mrs. Williams and I were wonderful friends.

She told me that her favorite text from the Bible was, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love"(1 Corinthians 13:13).

"Stick to those three words," she told me, "and you will come out all right."

I went to a Brooklyn hospital to see a friend who had a leg amputated. Now, even the most courageous person might find himself feeling hopeless in this situation. When I asked to see him, the nurse said, "Oh, you want to see Mr. Weiss, the life of the party."

"What do you mean, the life of the party?" I asked.

"Why," she said, "he brings joy, life, hope, and excitement to all the other patients on his floor."

"Well, that's the way I know him, too, but I didn't think he would be that way in a hospital."

"He's got it, all right. No matter what he's gone through." Later, as I sat visiting my friend, a drunk came in. He was full of a certain kind of spirit that you get from the bottle. He held a bunch of flowers he had probably bought from a street vendor. They tried to get rid of him, unsuccessfully. He said, "I want to find the happiest man here, someone who hasn't lost the spirit of hope." They tried to shoo him away, but he wouldn't leave. He went along peering into each patient's face, saying, "No, you haven't got it. No, you don't have it, either," he would say to the next.

Finally, he came to Mr. Weiss. He peered at him and then a big smile spread over his face. "You get my flowers. You're alive. You have the spirit of hope."

After he gave my friend the flowers, he asked, "Where did you get it from?"

Mr. Weiss picked up his Bible and said, "Here—in the Bible. If you get your spirits out of this instead of the bottle, you, too, will have it all."

I have never forgotten the touching human scene where two men clasped hands, the drunk and the man who had lost his leg.

Hope is one of the great teachings of the New Testament.

A vital growing person cultivates hope and makes it a bulwark of strength in every endeavor. The hopeful person is joyous and confident. Be hopeful!

## Action Steps

**1.** There is a world of difference between these two words: hopeless and hopeful. Read inspirational stories of people who find hope instead of hopelessness. Learn from their experiences.

**2.** The world is full of hopeless people. Concentrate your thoughts to create a hope-filled attitude within you.

**3.** Think hopefully, talk hopefully, and act hopefully. As you do, hopelessness retreats and hopefulness takes over.

*“Hope is an adventure, a going forward<sup>3/4</sup>a confident search for a rewarding life.”* —Karl Menninger

# 7

## LOVE

### SELFLESS CONCERN FOR ALL OTHERS

**A**ccording to 1 Corinthians 13:13, *love of everyone* is the greatest value.

Live with love in your heart. Do all within your power to reduce human sorrow. This will make you so spiritually victorious that you will be able to rise above all difficulty; and fear will be crowded out of your mind and heart by love.

Practice loving people. This requires great effort, for some people are not lovable, or so it seems—with emphasis upon “seems.” Every person has lovable qualities, when you really learn to know him.

Now, you are probably saying, “That sounds good, but how do you do it?”

To answer that question, I think of my friend Sam Shoemaker, who genuinely loved everyone.

He was known as Sam to everyone, and really lived out his principle of loving all. Once at Christmastime, he told this story. He depicted an imaginary scene where Jesus was about to leave the heavenly home and go to earth. God said to His Son, “Those folks on earth, whom I have created, have forgotten Me. You are to go among them as a baby, for everyone loves a baby, and they will take you to their heart.”

So, at the gate of heaven, God said, “Good-by, Son, I will ever bless you.”

“But, Father,” the Son asked, “what shall I tell them is the secret of life?”

“Love. Tell them to love one another.”

So Jesus came to teach the principle of love.

For the first time, a loveless world was called upon to accept the love principle instead of the force principle that had dominated mankind for so long.

Even after 2000 years, we have not developed Christ’s love principle. We are still faltering, but have made some progress. God has been patient with us, but we need to learn it today, if we are to survive.

My wife and I took our entire family, 17 persons in all, to the Holy Land one Christmas. At each site, we read from the Scriptures the story about the happening at that place. Our most memorable experience was on the shore of Lake Galilee, where Jesus gave His Sermon on the Mount to an immense crowd.

There, under the trees, looking toward the lake, we imagined the Master laying down the principles that later became the basis of world civilization.

Apparently, the vast audience was greatly impressed, for the Scriptures say: “Never man so spake like this man” (John 7:46).



His words remain for us in Matthew, Chapters Five, Six, and Seven. Of special note is Matthew 5:44-45:

“But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

The fact that the world has not yet caught up with this does not invalidate the greatness of the principle.

Many years ago, I was in the great Protestant Cathedral in Copenhagen, Denmark. I had gone there to see a famous statue by Thorvaldsen, the great Danish sculptor. It is considered to be one of the great pieces of art in the world. Thorvaldsen was fascinated by Jesus, but he was not a committed believer. It was the mind of Jesus that impressed him. Never did one have such a brain, so subtle, so perceptive. “With that brain, He will conquer the world,” said the sculptor.

So Thorvaldsen decided to make a heroic statue of Jesus. He modeled Him in clay with authoritative upstretched arms and hands. The result was an austere, regal, dominating figure. Thorvaldsen was satisfied. “Jesus is the greatest figure in human history, and this statue will so represent Him,” he said.

The sculptor left the clay model in a shed to cure. But the sea mists came in and worked a strange miracle on the clay. The upstretched arms and hands had dropped from their imperious gesture of command to one of supplication. The hands were now in a pleading position; and the face, previously raised, had lowered, giving it a look of infinite compassion. Thorvaldsen saw this as a truer portrayal of the regal figure. He inscribed on the pedestal not, “Follow My Commands,” but rather, “Come unto Me.”

In the cathedral that day, people of many colors: black, white, brown, yellow, looked at all the statues. But it was the figure of Jesus that held them spellbound. I saw tears on many a cheek, and there were tears on my own. Everyone was looking at Jesus with adoration. No one can reach the human heart as He can. For no one showed us how to love as He did.

## Action Steps

1. To become as near like Jesus as possible, see the best in everyone—including yourself.
2. Turn aside from participating in any character assassinations that even good people indulge in, from time to time.
3. Pray to maintain the friendship of other people as we live the love principle ourselves. This requires a skill in human relationships.
4. Do not show your disappointment in people who do not demonstrate love. Our first priority is to keep the love principle going ourselves.

*“Love is the hardest lesson in Christianity. For that reason, it should be most our care to learn it.”*

*¾William Penn*