

Simplicity (Part 2): Single-Heartedness

Recap of Simplicity (Part 1):

1. Relinquishing the Right/Burden to Take Care of Yourself
The Deceitfulness and Inadequacy of Wealth
 2. Trusting God to Provide in Everything
Freedom from Anxiety
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3. Single Heartedness

Living from the Center of Your King's Will & His Kingdom Initiatives

“Henri Nouwen remains one of the greatest spiritual writers of the twentieth century, and he is a model of how to embody spiritual health...When posed the single question, “What is the key to the spiritual life?” Nouwen, with his hands moving from his solar plexus out stated simply: ‘Live from the center. Live from the center.’”

- Greg Cootsona, *Say Yes To No*

- Always ask the Questions of **Why** and **Origin** in whatever you do.

1. SAYING “YES” AND “NO” WITH CONFIDENCE

Matthew 5:37 "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil."

“The ability to say Yes and No out of the Divine Center was foreign to me. I had always prayed over decisions, and yet I too often responded on the basis of whether or not the action would put me in a favorable light. To say Yes to pleas of help or opportunities to serve usually carried an aura of spirituality and sacrifice. I could say Yes easily, but I did not know how to say No. What would people think of me if I refused.”

- Richard Foster, *Celebration of Discipline*

- When One Answers from the Divine Center Yes and No are Answers Decided for You and Give You the Freedom of Simplicity and Confidence.

2. SET SPIRIT-LED LIMITS AND BE COMMITTED TO THEM

Eccl. 7:16 Do not be excessively righteous and do not be overly wise. Why should you ruin yourself?

3. PRACTICING THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN EVERYTHING

Colossians 3:17 "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus..."

"The time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer; and in the noise and clatter of the kitchen, while several persons are at the same time calling for different things, I possess God in as great tranquility as if I were upon my knees at the blessed sacrament."

- Brother Lawrence

1 Thess. 5:17 "Pray without Ceasing..."

4. THE BLESSING OF CONTENTMENT

- "Remain" & "Continue"

1 Cor. 7:17, 20-24

¹⁷ Each of you should continue to live in whatever situation the Lord has placed you, and remain as you were when God first called you. This is my rule for all the churches...²⁰ Yes, each of you should remain as you were when God called you. ²¹ Are you a slave? Don't let that worry you—but if you get a chance to be free, take it. ²² And remember, if you were a slave when the Lord called you, you are now free in the Lord. And if you were free when the Lord called you, you are now a slave of Christ.²³ God paid a high price for you, so don't be enslaved by the world. ²⁴ Each of you, dear brothers and sisters, should remain as you were when God first called you.

5. LIVING WITHIN YOUR MEANS EMOTIONALLY

Matthew 6:34

"So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

James 4:13-16

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil.