

Gandhi said, in respect to the suggestion that he was without ambition: "Oh, no, I have the greatest ambition imaginable. I want to make myself zero."

CHRIST:

MY CHILD, the moment you desire anything too much, you lose My gift of peace. The proud and the covetous are never at peace. The poor in spirit, the humble man, enjoys a heavenly peace of soul.

2. To set your life in order, you must begin from within. Begin with your desires. Allow yourself to want only what I want you to have. Do not desire what is not for you. Why desire things which will tie your heart too much to this earth?

3. Surrender yourself to My Will, and you will gain a victory over all earthly things. Examine your desires. Even when they seem good and holy, they can hurt you by demanding too much attention, and so preventing you from fulfilling your duties and obligations.

4. I want you to have the freedom of My true followers. Love My wisdom and choose My Will, and you will never be downcast if your plans or your friends fail you. So long as you have done your honest best, believe firmly that I am pleased with you. This above all must you desire—to please Me in all things.

REPENTANCE

One of the hardest things in the world is to confess wrongdoings. We always give a much more kindly treatment to our own moral failures than we do to those of others. We advance our excuses, so plausible to ourselves. We stand on our dignity, our pride choking back the generous word of penitence which would have made possible new beginnings.

Self-righteousness is a characteristic of the life of today. No nation seems capable of confessing even a share in the guilt for the disasters of these years.

Repentance makes possible forgiveness, and forgiveness sets new forces flowing through human personality. It results in peace of heart, the only peace there is in the last analysis. Forgiveness breaks the tyranny of the past, setting the mind and heart free for God's further action.

“It is about time the piano realized it has not written the concerto.”

Joseph L. Mankiewicz (1909-)

WHAT GOD INTENDS

I think that many of us, when Christ has enabled us to overcome one or two sins that were an obvious nuisance, are inclined to feel (though we do not put it into words) that we are now good enough. He has done all we wanted him to do, and we should be obliged if he would leave us alone.

But the question is not what we intended ourselves to be, but what he intended us to be when he made us ...

Imagine yourself as a living house. God comes in to rebuild that house. At first, perhaps, you can understand what he is doing. He is getting the drains right and stopping the leaks in the roof and so on. You knew that those jobs needed doing and so you are not surprised.

But presently he starts knocking the house about in a way that hurts abominably and does not seem to make sense. What on earth is he up to? The explanation is that he is building quite a different house from the one you thought of—throwing out a new wing here, putting on an extra floor there, running up towers, making courtyards.

You thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage, but he is building a palace. He intends to come and live in it himself.

—C.S. Lewis

Two wills are involved: the first is the composer who has established his plan; the second is the conductor who more or less faithfully interprets the first; the orchestra is a visible reality which to a greater or less extent obeys these two wills.