

Before all else,
LOVE GOD,
then YOUR NEIGHBOR.

Live together
In harmony
And be of one mind
And heart in God.

One Thing More I Ask

Dear God, another day is done
And I have seen the golden sun
Swing in the arch from east to west
And sink behind the pines to rest.
I thank Thee that Thou gavest me
The power of sight that I may see
The tinted glories of Thy skies.
An earthly glimpse of Paradise;
The power to hear the evening
breeze
Swelling in organ harmonies;
The power to feel the tender grasp
Of loving hands in friendship's
clasp;

I thank Thee for these gifts to me;
But one thing more I ask of Thee:
From out Thy bounteous, gracious
hand
Give me the power to understand,
To understand — to sympathize —
To note the pain in others' eyes;
To have the power rightly to read
The kindly motive of each deed.
And this I humbly ask of Thee
Because I know Thou lovest me.
Amen.

Upon Hearing the Good News

Go away, spoiler of fun!
I will not look.
I will not listen.
Go back to your Master
You bringer of nightmares,
You pusher of visions
That I cannot bear.

Go away, I beg you.
Your face brings me death.
Oh good, you say,
It's what you came for.

If I surrender,
If I fall 'neath your spell,
Will I cease to be me?
Will I become like you,
Despised as an open sore
Upon the earth?

Go away before you make me see
All that I have hidden from.
You'll strip me of myself.
Oh God, can this be happening to me?

Have you no pity?
Hide your face
For it tears away my defenses
That took so long to build.
I want to be me.
I don't want to be you.
You will suck me up,
Blood, marrow and bone,
Into your dream.

Go away, spoiler of fun!
I don't believe you
--Or your friends,
--Or your God.

Patty Coleman

When everything is dark, when we are surrounded
by despairing voices, when we do not see any exits
then we can find salvation in a remembered love, a
love which is not simply a wistful recollection of
a bygone past, but a living force which sustains
us in the present. Through memory, love transcends
the limits of time and offers hope at any moment
in our lives.

Henri Nouwen

STAYING POWER A recent television documentary pointed out that the cheetah survives on the African plains by running down its prey. The big cat can sprint seventy miles per hour. But the cheetah cannot sustain that pace for long. Within its long, sleek body is a disproportionately small heart, which causes the cheetah to tire quickly. Unless the cheetah catches its prey in the first flurry, it must abandon the chase.

Sometimes Christians seem to have the cheetah's approach to ministry. We speed into projects with great energy. But lacking the heart for sustained effort, we fizzle before we finish. We vow to start faster and run harder, when what we need may be not more speed but more staying power -- stamina that comes only from a bigger heart. Motion and busyness, no matter how great, yield nothing unless we allow God to give us the heart.

TEMPTATION A youngster was asked what he did when he was tempted. He replied, "Well, when I hear Satan come knocking at the door of my heart, I just say to the Lord Jesus, who lives within my heart, 'Lord Jesus, will You please go to the door?' And then, when the Lord Jesus opens the door, Satan draws away and says, 'Oh! Excuse me, I have made a mistake.'"

God has given us Himself to dwell within our hearts. The Living Word is there with a full command of the Written Word. When we let Him meet the temptation in our behalf we shall know the joy of positive victory. We are fortunate that one victory does not help us to win another, for our hearts are kept from feasting upon an experience so that we may gaze upon the living Lord Jesus Christ.