

"You seem so casual and so ordinary, Josh. It's hard to imagine you as a real artist."

"Why should a person act any different just because he can carve a piece of wood? Talent doesn't justify putting on airs. Any ability we have comes from God, and our recognition of it should make us humble, not arrogant. That's the mistake so many scientists make when they think they have created what God has given them the privilege to discover. In their smallness they use their discoveries as reason to question the very existence of the person who gave them their ability. That is the modern unforgivable sin. In their blind pride they put themselves outside the reach of God's saving grace."

WITHIN GRASP:

When we ask, "Why am I?"

"What should I become and be?"

"What is the meaning of my life?"

then we are exploring . . .

the region of our experience

where God may be known

• I am more afraid of my own heart than of the Pope and all his cardinals. I have within me the great pope. SELF.

—Martin Luther

• If you love men and they are unfriendly, look into your love; if you rule men, and they are unruly, look into your wisdom; if you are courteous to them, and they do not respond, look into your respect. If what you do is vain, always seek within.

—Mencius

Let us receive Christ that we may in all truth be "light in the Lord" and that Christ may shine not only to us, but through us.....
Thomas Merton

Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.

Galatians 5:1

Anyone who is proud is confused.
What is this thing you walk around in that you are proud of?
Dust.
The body is dust.
Actions without spirit are less than air,
less than wind.
It's only spirit that has substance. It's only spirit that has contact.
It's only spirit that has longevity.
Everything else is dust.
To be proud of dust is like taking clay from a diamond mine.

God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason.
Dag Hammarskjöld, *Markings*

What was true of Christ is also true of his disciples; something in us. Something of ourselves, must die for the fruit to be born; and the greater the degree of death, the greater will be the rebirth and the fruit.
Thomas Merton

Something miraculous happens when we put aside our personal likes and dislikes and let God love through us; when we put aside our own concept of the resources at our disposal and let God give through us. When we surrender, we create a vacuum through which the Infinite freely flows into our lives. But as long as we have one more thing to try, one more comment to make, or one more personal protest to utter, we are blocking God's flow through us.

If we give up our own answers, then we are open to God's answers. If all our time is God's time, if our talents are God's talents, if our energy is God-energy, then we shall always operate from the Limitless Source within our own being.

When you sweep out the temple courtyard, don't stop to read the old newspapers. When you are cleaning out your heart, don't stop to flirt with words.

• God does not expect us just to cope with a situation; he calls us to be content.

—Karen Wells

"I would rather lose my life than my honor. An enemy can kill my body, but over my soul he has no power. It belongs to eternity.