

**ATTITUDE IMPACT** A number of years ago a man picked up the morning paper, and, to his horror, read his own obituary. The newspaper had reported the death of the wrong man. The caption read: "Dynamite king dies." The story identified him as a "merchant of death." He was the inventor of dynamite and he had amassed a great fortune from the manufacture of weapons of destruction. Moved by this disturbing experience, he radically changed his commitment to life. A healing power greater than the destructive force of dynamite came over him. It was his hour of Pentecost. Thereafter, he devoted his full energy and money to works of peace and human betterment. Today he is best remembered as the founder of the Nobel Peace Prize-- Alfred Nobel.

“In His will is our tranquility.”

Dante  
(1265-1321)  
Paradiso, Canto III

### Awakening

To discover God is not to discover an idea  
But to discover oneself.  
It is to awaken to that part of one's existence  
which has been hidden from sight  
and which one has refused to recognize.  
The discovery may be very painful,  
It is like going through a kind of death.  
But it is the one thing which  
makes life worth living. Bede Griffiths

**LINCOLN'S PROCLAMATION** Abraham Lincoln wrote an address to the nation during the Civil War that was at least as important as the Gettysburg Address. It was his proclamation for a national fast-day, by which he did designate and set apart Thursday the 30th day of April, 1863, as a day of national humiliation, fasting and prayer.

Lincoln wrote: "It is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God: to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow, yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon; and to recognize the sublime truth announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord.

"The awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins, to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity too proud to pray to the God that made us.

"It behooves us, then, to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

#### First Things Last

When a boy gets up at six o'clock in the morning to do a paper round to "better himself," people say he is a gogetter. If some Christian organization should ask that same boy to get up at six o'clock to do some work for the Lord, they would say, "That's expecting too much of the boy."

If a woman spends eight hours away from her home working in a factory or office, she is called a helpful and energetic wife. If, however, she is willing to do the same thing for the Lord, they say, "Religion has gone to her head."

If one ties himself down to making payments of \$2 each week for some time on items for personal enjoyment, he pays willingly. But if that same person placed that much in the collection plate each week, many people would say he is crazy.

A crazy world indeed, where first things come last and last things come first!

To Drift  
is to be in hell.

to be in heaven  
is to Steer.

G.B. Shaw

“Often the best way of giving oneself what one lacks is to take from oneself what one has.”

Persian proverb