

Paul's testimony is repeated over and over again as persons respond in faith to God's gift of Christ, as they are given His Spirit and become new creations. I heard of such a miracle recently. The American Red Cross was gathering supplies, medicine, clothing, food and the like for the suffering people of Biafra. Inside one of the boxes that showed up at the collecting depot one day was a letter. It said, "We have recently been converted and because of our conversion we want to try to help. We won't ever need these again. Can you use them for something?" Inside the box were several Ku Klux Klan sheets. The sheets were cut down to strips and eventually used to bandage the wounds of black persons in Africa.

It could hardly be more dramatic -- from symbols of hatred to bandages of love because of the new creation. Nothing else matters, says Paul.

Something in us does not believe we can survive fundamental changes in personality structure or life circumstances and so crisis in life is shadowed by death. Then when we survive the crisis we realize that change may mean metamorphosis rather than death. The ego dies and a stronger self is born. Then it may come to us that death is only a gateway to wider life, the final trip beyond the prison of the ego.

SAM KEEN, ANNE VALLEY FOX,
Telling Your Story

Hallowed be Thy name, not mine
Thy Kingdom come, not mine
Thy will be done, not mine
Give us peace with Thee
Peace with men, Peace with ourselves,
And free us from all fear.
Dag Hammarskold (1905-1961)

The American evangelist then asked the general if he would disclose his secret for success. "He hesitated a second," Dr. Chapman said, "and I saw the tears come into his eyes and steal down his cheeks, and then he said, 'I will tell you the secret. God has had all there was of me. There have been men with greater brains than I, men with greater opportunities; but from the day I got the poor of London on my heart, and a vision of what Jesus Christ could do with the poor of London, I made up my mind that God would have all of William Booth there was. And if there is anything of power in the Salvation Army today, it is because God has all the adoration of my heart, all the power of my will, and all the influence of my life.'"

Dr. Chapman said he went away from that meeting with General Booth knowing "that the greatness of a man's power is the measure of his surrender."

Paul Lee Tan's, Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations

O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

Matthew 26:42

Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

Luke 17:33

You are not the oil, you are not the air - the point of combustion, the flash-point where the light is born. You are the lens in the beam. You can only receive, give, and possess the light as a lens does. If you seek yourself, you prevent the oil and air from meeting in the flame, you rob the lens of its transparency.