

The most important question for me is not, "How do I touch people?" but, "How do I live the word I am speaking?" In Jesus no division existed between his words and his actions, between what he said and what he did. Jesus' words were his action, his words were events. They not only spoke about changes, cures, new life, but they actually created them. In this sense, Jesus is truly the Word made flesh; in that Word all is created and by that Word all is recreated.

Saintliness means living without division between word and action. If I would truly live in my own life the word I am speaking, my spoken words would become actions, and miracles would happen whenever I opened my mouth. The Gospel of today thus confronts me not so much with a question about pastoral tactics or strategy, but with an invitation to deep personal conversion. Henri Nouwen, Gracias, page 124.

When we have the strength to let go of the ropes that bind us to this age, the grace to fall free in the love of God and each other, we will discover the real kingdom.

-Joanne McPartland

## BELONGING

God believes in you  
Even if you  
Don't believe in Him.

You are never separate  
From His love  
Even for an instant.

Whether the wave believes  
It belongs  
To the Ocean or not

It still does.  
And so it is  
With you and God.

Bonnie Michael Pratt

## Co-Partner with God

Once there was a king who invited his subjects to a banquet. He told each guest to bring a flask of wine and informed each that his wine would be poured into a large wine vat. Each one thought, "What will my small flask of wine mean? I will bring my small flask of water and no one will know the difference." When the guests were assembled at the banquet, the king summoned his servants to serve the guests with the contents of the vat. Each was served water, for they all had thought, "What will my small flask of wine mean? I will bring a flask of water instead and no one will know the difference."

**For Jesus the  
question "Who is  
my neighbor?" is  
glued to the  
question "Who is  
my enemy?"**

Everyone should see how unselfish you are. The Lord is near. Dismiss all anxiety from your minds. Present your needs to God in every form of prayer and in petitions full of gratitude. Then God's own peace, which is beyond all understanding, will stand guard over your hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus. Finally, my brothers, your thoughts should be wholly directed to all that is true, all that deserves respect, all that is honest, pure, admirable, decent, virtuous, or worthy of praise. Live according to what you have learned and accepted, what you have heard me say and seen me do. Then will the God of peace be with you.

*Phillipians 4:5-9*

**WHO SAYS YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN?** A man was confronted by one of those aggressive Christians who buttonholed him and asked: "Are you a Christian?" The man stopped and thought for a moment. He said, "I really don't know." Then he took a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote some names on it. He gave the paper to the questioner, and said, "Here. These are the names of people. This name here, the first one, that's a member of my family. This next name, he's a business associate. The last name, she's my neighbor. Ask them if I'm a Christian."