

Son, you will never succeed in putting enough love
 into the heart of man and into the world,
 For man and the world are hungry for an infinite love,
 And God alone can love with a boundless love.
 But if you want, son, I give you my Life.
 Draw it within you.
 I give you my heart, I give it to my sons.
 Love with my heart, son,
 And all together you will feed the world,
 and you will save it.

Michel Quoist

LIVING GOD'S WAY

So then, my brothers, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

(Romans 12:1-2)

"For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Romans 8:38-39)

The whole biblical history is one of God calling individuals and communities of people to a relationship with Himself as the supreme purpose of life. As the Westminster Catechism puts it, "The chief end of man[kind] is to glorify God and to enjoy him forever." This process is a progressive one, beginning in primitive understandings of God but enlarging and deepening as the history unfolds. Thus we are all involved together in an evolutionary process, and within that process each of us as individuals is called to our own growth and development. The Bible is a manual intended to help us discover the true purpose of life and to grow in our attainment of it.

Jesus announced, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). And in John, chapter 17, he prayed, "Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. . . . that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. . . . I in them and you in me." Thus the ultimate purpose of life is declared to be union with God, as other great religions also propose.

Paul the apostle declared his life's purpose when he said, "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:10,11).

And its power: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

And the process is described by Peter: "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Show me what I must do. The clown image in the title is a central symbol in the book: The believer is a fool for Christ's sake. God uses the foolish of this world to confound the wise.

assumptions affect Observation. Observation breeds Conviction. Conviction produces Experience. Experience generates behavior, which, in turn, confirms Assumptions.

Reality, mostly, is not what it is but what we have decided it is:

God has created me to do Him
 some definite service;
 He has committed some work to me
 which He has not committed to another.
 I have my mission . . .
 I am a link in a chain,
 a bond of connection between persons.
 He has not created me for naught.
 I shall be an angel of peace,
 a preacher of truth in my own place
 while not intending it —
 if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore I will trust Him.
 Whatever, wherever I am,
 I can never be thrown away.
 If I am in sickness,
 my sickness may serve Him;
 in perplexity,
 my perplexity may serve Him;
 if I am in sorrow,
 my sorrow may serve Him.
 He does nothing in vain,
 He knows what He is about.

John Henry Newman