

May 30, 2020 – Weekly Devotion

Love of Spirit Spiritualist Church, NSAC

The Man and the Serpent



This week, news from Minneapolis has centered around the death of George Floyd. It is with a sad and heavy heart that I too admit, feeling a loss with this man. Whenever someone is harmed or in this case, murdered another person due to violence, it makes me wonder, as a Spiritualist why anyone would choose this experience during this physical life? Why would anyone choose to die in such a sad and violent way? My intent is to take time to remember his spirit and mourn his death while not disrespecting, his memory.

I look at posts on social media and news stories where people all over our nation are grieving the loss of this man, in many cases he was unknown to many. Unfortunately, he is now one of the many that represents face of violence. I see for many in our nation, it brings anger, empathy and sadness which is centered around this violent crime and how it is affecting the surviving members of those who loved him. Maybe you are feeling a mixture of emotions and have had a hard time describing how you feel. Sometimes the feelings are so overwhelming they are beyond words, beyond disturbing. It is normal to feel that way especially when it's realized, this could have happened anywhere, anyone, anytime. When having those thoughts, it makes this heartbreak real. It personalizes the hurt, anger, pain along with so many emotions felt to a point where it leaves a scar that cannot be forgotten.

My heart hurts for George's family and friends. This is a time in their lives they will never forget; their lives have now changed forever. For them, I send my sincerest sympathies as well to anyone who has lost a loved one due to a violent act. I pray to God that these people be comforted in this time of sadness. I pray comfort is found in their memories. I pray they find comfort in each other.

Aesop's Fable: "The Man and the Serpent"

A Countryman's son by accident trod upon a serpent's tail, which turned and bit him so that he died. The father in a rage got his axe, and pursuing the serpent, cut off part of its tail. So, the serpent in revenge began stinging several of the farmer's cattle and caused him severe loss.

Well, the farmer thought it best to make it up with the serpent, and brought food and honey to the mouth of its lair, and said to it: *"Let's forget and forgive; perhaps you were right to punish my son, and take vengeance on my cattle, but surely I was right in trying to revenge him; now that we are both satisfied why should not we be friends again?"*

"No, no," said the Serpent; "take away your gifts; you can never forget the death of your son, nor I the loss of my tail."

Moral: Injuries may be forgiven, but not forgotten.

When someone has been through something so traumatic, and it leaves a void, it's hard to forgive. Forgiveness is to release. The loss will never be forgotten. How does our society heal from these acts of violence? Actions leaving scars by the pain that hurts so deep which can also remind us of healing from a hurt. I remember my grandmother saying when I was younger, "Time heals all wounds," I never really understood the true meaning, Now I see them not just only as a reminder of the hurt, but something representing survival.

Last night on Dateline, they aired the Pam Zimmerman story. November 4, 2014 many local lives changed forever as Pam's life was ended too soon due to a violent act. Pam was kind, generous; and Pam was my friend. As I have tried to make sense of George's death, I realized I hadn't forgotten what happened to Pam and how it affected those who loved her. It's true, these horrendous tragedies may be forgiven, but they will not be forgotten.

How could such a loving God take kind, loving people in such an ill-fated way and time? Again, I must reflect on Spiritualist teachings and realize, it's not God that has done this, it's part of the life journey. As an empath, it's difficult to accept the path of others when the hurt is individualized. Maybe this is a reminder that now more than ever it's important to show random acts of kindness to one another. To take our part to raise the vibration of forgiveness, love, compassion, acceptance...

We have the power to make change for a kinder, gentler world by using your power to raise vibrational effects. If you are grieving along with so many in our nation over this tragic loss of life, just know you are not alone. Through your grief, I pray you strength to reach out to one other, that promotes kindness, understanding, and compassion. If you are grieving, may you all find clarity and peace during challenging times of unrest, and reach out to others who may share your grief to heal together.

May God keep you safe and well,

Bonnie.

God of forgiveness. I pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one today. I pray that the scars of pain and loss remind them of memories that brought them joy. I pray that as time heals, it brings forth positive ways that we as a society may learn the value of each other. Thank you for reminding us of compassion with unconditional love. Amen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We will be holding a church service on Zoom, Sunday church service time at 5pm.

The invitation has been included in the body of this email.

- **This Sunday we welcome the Reverend Christine Krithades from Florida.** Christine is the President of the NSAC and we welcome her to our service! It's quite possible we will have guest mediums join us as well!
- **If you join us with Zoom, please note they have a mandatory update.** Follow this link to complete your update: <https://zoom.us/download?zcid=1231>
- **Anyone interested in taking classes for certification for** Commissioned Healer, Certified Medium, Ordained Minister and National Spiritualist Teacher, contact Pastor Bonnie at info@yourloveofspirit.com
- **If you want to continue to support the church,** we have added a "DONATE" button on the first page of our website. <https://www.yourloveofspirit.com/>. Thank you in advance for your continued support and a special thanks to those who have contributed. If you don't feel comfortable with PayPal and still want to help your church, contact the church through info@yourloveofspirit.com
- **For past devotions and copies of Sunday Sermons** go to <https://www.yourloveofspirit.com/Devotions>
- **Members:** Check your email this later the week of June 1 for membership updates.
- **For updates** visit our website: <https://www.yourloveofspirit.com/>
or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/YourLoveOfSpirit/?ref=bookmarks>

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expression of Infinite Intelligence.
3. We affirm that a correct understanding of such expression and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact, scientifically proven by the phenomena of Spiritualism.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of individuals, and that we make our own happiness or unhappiness as we obey or disobey Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul here or hereafter.
9. We affirm that the precepts of Prophecy and Healing are Divine attributes proven through Mediumship.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL HEALING

I ask the great unseen healing force to remove all obstructions from my mind and body and to restore me to perfect health. I ask this in all sincerity and honesty, and I will do my part.

I ask this great unseen healing force to help both present and absent ones who are in need of help and to restore them to perfect health. I put my trust and love in the power of God.