

When Becoming Nothing Is an Improvement

In the beginning, the earth  was formless and void, but that did not deter the Almighty. He looked into the fathomless depth of its darkness and concluded, “All it needs is light!” Likewise, in the beginning of our spiritual lives, we also are “formless and void” and God, just as confidently, is still saying, “All they need is a little light!” Remember: it’s the Lord’s responsibility to create and our responsibility to submit to His creating.

The Lord only needs three things to fashion life. First, He needs a “nothing.” The Almighty always begins His great, creative works with a nothing (and this is where we come in!).

Then, His Spirit needs to be hovering over the nothing. And, finally, He needs His Word, which is the “something” He’s going to put in the nothing’s place.

God has no difficulty at all creating something out of nothing. The only obstacle He faces is when the nothing doesn’t know it is nothing but instead thinks it’s something. At that point God has to break it back down to nothing before it is good for anything.

(Are you still following me?) Paul said this better than I when he wrote,

“If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he

deceives himself”

(Gal. 6:3).

Even as Christians if we think we are something so that we look down on others or are wise in our own eyes, we deceive ourselves! The only something there truly is is God.

If we categorically know we are nothing without God, and we simultaneously recognize whatever grace He has worked in us so we can bless others, then there is no limit to how much God can use us. Our knowing we are nothing is a great attainment in His eyes. For then our energies are no longer spent exalting or defending ourselves but in clinging to Christ and relying upon Him.

You see, God is not offended by chaos. There will be times when, like the precreation universe, you discover your life seems “formless and void.” Do not be overly concerned. When you discover there is chaos in the deepest part of you, do not fret. You are at a new beginning. It has taken the Lord quite a long time to help you to recognize your nothingness.

So, let all who know they are nothings rejoice—you are miles ahead of those who think they are something! The proud, who consider themselves something special, do not deal with the lightless regions of chaos in their souls; they simply hide them. But if we are transparent with our need, the Spirit and Word can work in us

to bring life and
order. All we need do is to open up and confess our
nothingness to the Holy
Spirit.

“For God, who said,
‘Light shall shine out of darkness,’ is the One who has shone
in our hearts to
give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the
face of Christ”
(2 Cor. 4:6).

This is the very way our
great Creator creates. He causes light to shine out of
darkness! The only thing
He requires of us is to be honest about the darkness—to
confess it instead of
hiding it.

“Do not participate in
the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose
them. ... But all
things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for
everything that
becomes visible is light” (Eph. 5:11,13).

When darkness is exposed to
the light, it becomes light. In fact, the very reason our
darkness becomes
visible is because God shines His light upon it. If you
persevere—if you
continually thrust your darkness into the light of God’s grace
and power—that
light will ultimately shine out from within you. Your darkness
will actually
become light.

Beloved, if you know you

are nothing in yourself, you're a prime candidate to become something in God!

Consider again Paul's view of himself:

"If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the

church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. But

whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the

sake of Christ" (Phil. 3:4-7).

Paul said whatever things

were "gain" to him (things that made him a "something" before men),

he gave up as "loss for the sake of Christ." To become nothing in

ourselves, to be excavated of pride and of being consumed by our attainments

and pedigree, is part of the path to sonship. Paul actually saw all his human,

religious attainments as obstacles. Certainly, in time the Lord used all of the

elements of Paul's life, but not before Paul gave them up to the Lord.

John the Baptist said, "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John

3:30). You see, though self-confidence dies, God-confidence comes to life!

So, do not fret. You can

admit that you have areas within that are dead and dark.

Romans 4:17 says,

“God ... gives life to the dead and calls into being that which does not exist.”

God gives *life* to the dead. Do you sometimes feel dead? Good. You're qualified to get God's life! Look to God. Trust Him as your Creator. Do not fear when you discover you are nothing. There is a time when becoming nothing is an improvement.

About the author:·Francis

Frangipane is the founder of River of Life Ministries in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and has traveled throughout the world ministering to thousands of pastors and intercessors from many backgrounds. In June 2009, he retired from his position as senior pastor of River of Life Ministries and is devoting himself to prayer and the ministry of God's Word. For more about his ministry, go to .