

October 11, 1931 – (continued)

Far more than any other device of God to create love was the cross where the most loving person the world has known hangs loving through all His pain. That cross has become the symbol of religion and of love for a third of the world because it touches the deepest depths of human love. All I have said is mere words, until one sets out helping God right wrongs, helping God help the helpless, loving and talking it over with God. Then there comes a great sense of the close, warm intimate heart of reality. God simply creeps in and you know He is here in your heart. He has become your friend by working along with you.

So if anybody were to ask me how to find God I should say at once, hunt out the deepest need you can find and forget all about your own comfort while you try to meet that need. Talk to God about it, and - He will be there. You will know it.

January 2, 1932

Learn to hold God by the hand and rest. In school a teacher lays out work for his pupils. I resolve to accept each situation of this year as God's layout for that hour, and never to lament that it is a very commonplace or disappointing task. One can find or pour something divine into every situation.

One of the mental characteristics against which I have rebelled most is the frequency of my "blank spells" when I cannot think of anything worth writing, and sometimes cannot remember names. Henceforth I resolve to regard these as God's signal that I am to stop and listen. Sometimes you want to talk to your son, and sometimes you want to hold him tight in silence. God is that way with us. He wants to hold still with us in silence:

Here is something we can share with all of the people in the world: They cannot all be brilliant or rich or beautiful. They cannot all even dream beautiful dreams like God gives some of us. They cannot all enjoy music. Their hearts do not all burn with love: But everybody can learn to hold God by the hand and rest. And when God is ready to speak, the fresh thoughts of heaven will flow in like a crystal spring. Everybody rests at the end of the day, what a world gain if everybody, could rest in the waiting arms of the Father, and listen until He whispers.

Loneliness to Never Alone - Frank Laubach

Experiencing the Presence of God

Conclusion: Final reflection by Frank Laubach

Below me lay the rice fields and as I looked across them I heard my tongue saying aloud, "Child, just as the rice needs the sunshine every day, and could not grow if it had sun only once a week or one hour a day, so you need me all day of every day. People all over the world are withering because they are open toward God only rarely. Every waking minute is not too much!"

A few months ago I was trying to write a chapter on the "Discovering of God." Now that I have discovered Him I find that it is a continuous discovery. Every day is rich with new aspects of Him and His working. As one makes new discoveries about his friends by being with them, so one discovers the "individuality" of God if one entertains Him continuously.

One thing I have seen is that God loves beauty. Everything He makes is lovely. The clouds, the tumbling river, the waving lake, the soaring eagle, the slender blade of grass, the whispering of the wind, the fluttering butterfly, this graceful transparent nameless child of the lake which clings to my window for an hour and vanishes forever. Beautiful craft of God! And I know that He makes my thought-life beautiful when I am open all the day to Him. If I throw these mind-windows open and say "God, what shall we think of now?" He answers always in some graceful, tender dream.

I know that God is love hungry, for He is constantly pointing me to some dull, dead soul which He has never reached and wistfully urges me to help Him reach that stolid, tight shut mind. Oh God, how I long to help you with these Moros. And with these Americans! And with these Filipinos! All day I see souls dead to God look sadly out of hungry eyes. I want them to know my discovery! That any minute can be paradise; that any place can be heaven! That any man can have God! That every man does have God the moment he speaks to God, or listens for Him!

It may be enough for you to just 'know about God' and to have 'tomes of information about Him and His Word.' But God has offered to everyone this amazing sensation of tenderness and passionate love for Him. And it is only this passionate affection for God which, in the Holy Spirit, we can lavish on others, even our enemies that distinguishes the Christian from all other people.

In the natural, it is all about me. This keeps me twisted-gut anxious, or angry, or bitter toward others. I can, in the natural, force myself to minister to others in ways that, for all intents and purposes, look like 'acts of love.' However posing as a lover is a far cry from the enormous, generous love Jesus demonstrated for us when He paid the penalty for our sins. He paid for all of them so that we could approach Him blamelessly and shamelessly regardless of our current short-comings. It is, after all is said and done, the greatest desire of every human being, to be genuinely loved and unconditionally accepted by another person! In an intimate relationship with God, we can be that person whose genuine affection draws them to God!

Loneliness to Never Alone - Frank Laubach

Experiencing the of Presence of God 2 Years of Transformation by Mind Renewal

(by Bob Clarkson, Editor)

Testimony of Editor-in-Chief, Bob Clarkson,
another Modern Mystic serving now as a devotee of Jesus
Christ in North Carolina.

INTRODUCTION

Historically, Bob was born in Los Angeles in the mid-twentieth century to parents dedicated to God and the pursuit of evangelism as lay persons in the faith. After his family was moved to Detroit, Bob was 'born again' during an encounter with God in his early teens in his own bedroom where God engaged him in this dialog:

"Did you just tell your Pastor that you would be a pastor if I asked you to be?" "Yes," Bob replied. "Did you mean that?" God asked. "Well, no. It was just the best answer I could think of so as not to be embarrassed when Pastor Allen asked me the question in front of the evangelist and our large congregation."

God went silent. After a very brief pause, Bob spoke again after realizing that the God of Universe cared enough to ask him these questions in the privacy of his own home, "I will say it again now and I do mean it!" At that instant Bob was overwhelmed by a feeling of affection for God that rivaled even His marital love affair. Bob was certain that this was his 'new birth!' Subsequently, when God asked, Bob pursued formal training and was ordained to serve as a pastor in a church in Philadelphia.

Loneliness to Never Alone - Frank Laubach

After a short time in the pulpit ministry, getting married and moving back to Los Angeles, God redirected Bob into the field of Computer Science where he pioneered in many areas of technological engineering and implementation of systems upon which the current AI technologies depend. Then at God's direction Bob moved with his family back to Philadelphia and then to North Carolina where he currently resides.

As Bob puts it, "I was one of the most intentional, avid, energetic, purveyors of the Word of God with an intense focus on bringing people to Christ for salvation. I served in nearly every capacity in my churches and taught thousands of Bible Study meetings. But after 40 years in this avid pursuit of the knowledge of God, I came to feel as though I had somehow missed the point. I could not give you the name of a single person who I had personally led to 'faith in Jesus.' So I asked God to release me from the 'Christian fortress (church) and bring me to fruitful living in Christ."

Shortly after the turn of the century and 10 years before retirement from a highly successful career in business and prolific service to the church, God introduced Bob to Dr. Laubach's letters, Brother Lawrence's transformation, and Oswald Chambers' works. At this point, he embarked on a similar journey. For Bob it was also about a 2 year quest. But the rewards were immense.

Well, as God would have it, Bob stayed in church, but began a transformation by renewing his mind as stated in Romans 12:2. Once having arrived in a place of love, joy and peace in God which exceeded all human imagination, he began to see much fruit of the Spirit in his life. He led many to faith in Jesus and deeper love for God in the ensuing years.

Bob offered editorial assistance to John Henry Alan, "Let's Fall in Love with God," and began creating manuscripts of interviews, sermons and other messages which help convey this message of 'Intimacy with God.' As Bob now says, "Like most Christians in my circles, I thought that my 'intensity' for God was the same as 'intimacy.' I also mistook 'ecstasies' with God in worship experiences as being 'intimate' with Christ. Once I realized that the intensity and ecstasies were self serving and gave me a 'good feeling' about myself, I told God I wanted more of Him and less of me." Hopefully, the letters of Frank Laubach, Conversations and letters of Brother Lawrence and the Oswald Chambers' devotions in "My Utmost for His Highest" will help you find the greatest joy and satisfaction in Jesus that you have ever known! It is likely that it will stagger your imagination!