DAY 6: TEMPTATION & BAPTISM BY FIRE

The first two weeks - 14 days - of this 40-Day Program are for Purification, Cleansing, and Clearing a space in you so something new can emerge.

Today is about allowing yourself to BE BAPTIZED.

Enjoy the video.

Someone informed me that in the video I say the word "adversary" wrong. :-)

Ooooops. In the video I say it ADVERSE-sary (with an emphasis on Adverse) and I am told the correct pronunciation is Ad-Ver-Ser-ree. I like the way I have been saying it with a focus on the word ADVERSE to describe the ego. Adverse means UNFAVORABLE, OPPOSING, CONFRONTING, ANTAGONISTIC IN PURPOSE, which is exactly what the ego is.

The ego is against you in every way. The ego is not your friend.

**No one has ever baptized themselves.**

Think about it. Everyone who has ever been baptized had it done by someone else.

Most times you didn’t even ask for it!! It just happened.

And that’s what happens when you say YES to the Call for God.

The Holy Spirit rushes to you and begins to help you.

But in humans, the tendency is to think you have to do everything yourself. You think you have to work hard and try harder. You falsely think you are responsible for giving yourself a healing and a miracle. You think you need to be in charge of your transformation and awakening. This is the one place you can actually RELAX. It will be done for you!!
“You cannot wake yourself. But you can LET yourself be wakened. You can overlook your brother’s dreams. So perfectly can you forgive him his illusions, he becomes your Savior from YOUR dreams. And as you see him shining in the space of light where God abides within the darkness, you will see that God Himself is where his body is.” -A Course in Miracles

The Holy Spirit will come upon you and baptize you, and you begin to see.

You start to feel the joy of life, of living centered in God.

There is an idea in metaphysics – and in the bible – about being baptized first with water – which is about repentance, clearing and purification – and then being baptized with FIRE and the Holy Spirit which burns everything up that you no longer need to go forth for the rest of the journey.
Today today’s video/audio I mention a quote by John the Baptist:

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.” -Matthew 3:11

This quote ALWAYS reminds me of the movie Godspell. So I am posting two clips from youtube. I have seen this movie at least 10 times. It’s one of my favorites. Please enjoy. In the first clip, the youtube doesn’t show the first part of the movie which is that 9 people are working in dead-end boring jobs in New York City. They are dragging along with no energy, looking very lost. Sound familiar??? Where the clip starts is that all 9 hear music and are moving towards it. THIS IS THE CALL FOR GOD. They hear it. No one else around them hears it. But they hear it!! And they move towards it, and it takes them to John the Baptist who is in the Central Park Fountain, ready to baptize them with water. You can watch it here:

![YouTube Video](image)

In this second clip, Jesus comes to John the Baptist and asks to be baptized. John thought that Jesus would be baptizing him. Jesus says: “Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.”
And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

This brings us to today. YOU HEARD A CALL. It’s been calling you since time began, but this time you followed it. And you are baptized with water – which means to be cleaned of all the stories and grievances you’ve been carrying around – which was Day 4 and Day 5. When you emerge from the water, you emerge as yourself, and you remember how loved you are, how lovable, and that God is pleased with you.

This is when the Holy Spirit comes to you.
A baptism with fire burns up all your humanness and littleness and fear and reveals to you WHAT YOU TRULY ARE as God sees you, as you were created.

1. Water cleanses. That’s first. You’re allowing the altar to God that you are be cleaned.

2. Fire refines and purifies. That’s second, and that happens on its own where everything that is no longer needed in your life burns up. When you are in the fire stage, it can seem like an extreme period of testing and temptation – IT CAN BE HOT. It can be scary, but nothing purifies like fire.

It burns up pride, selfishness, jealousy, personal ambition, anger, vanity, addictions, sickness, doubt and everything that has been blocking the way to the recognition of the Love that you are.
Fire also illuminates. It shines a light.

When someone is baptized by the Holy Spirit and with fire, truth that was previously dark and hidden now becomes bright as day. You can see everything clearly in the light.

So in the burning up of all old ideas, you will feel as if you are being tempted and you might even feel like you are dying. So today is about TEMPTATION so you will feel a strength in you to STAND STILL in trust while this fire is burning up everything in you and in your life that is not part of your own Divine Plan from God.

**TEMPTATION:**

“What is temptation but the WISH to stay in hell and misery?” - A Course in Miracles
Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days during a time when he knew something GREATER was at hand. I believe he didn’t know exactly what was happening to him, nor what his mission was, nor what he was meant to do.

But HE KNEW deep inside him that he needed to go away from the routine of his life – to disrupt all his habits – to go away by himself to be alone with God – and allow something new to be revealed.

So this program is YOUR 40-day Wilderness experience, being tempted by whatever comes up and having the willingness to stand still, trust and watch it be transmuted by fire.

Forty days usually signifies a period of “testing” along with a time of revival, renewal, and rebirth. It’s a time to break away from the old and allow the new to occur.

And there in the desert, Jesus was tempted by his “adversary” which is called Satan or the Devil. In A Course in Miracles, it’s called the “ego.”

**THIS IS FROM THE VIDEO:**

I really like the name Adversary. I actually like it better than the word ego because what I’ve noticed within the spiritual community of A Course In Miracles is that people use the word ego so much. It is a word that is used as if it’s your friend, like “my ego said this” “my ego said that” “oh that’s my ego” and you become DESENSITIZED to it, as if the ego is just there, it’s just always there and so you don’t actually even see what it is, but adversary’s a good name for it, or the devil – that’s another good one. It’s good to come up with a name that reminds you it’s your enemy – like Satan, like every time that these thoughts come up, instead of saying “Oh that’s just my ego” even the way people say it, like they say it like that, like “oh, that’s just my
ego.” NO it’s Satan. You begin to become aware there’s duality there, you’re still being tempted by your stories and thoughts, you’re still getting pulled in by them, it’s literally a condition of TWO and you want to become aware of that, you want to have all of that dissolved.

One of the things that I say in my book, Gorgeous for God, which was published in 2006, and I just came out with a brand new edition, with a new preface and a new cover (in spring 2013) and it’s beautiful but one of the things that I put in there is STOP SAYING THE WORD EGO. Just to take it out of your vocabulary, the ego is not real. So as long as you keep saying “my ego”, it’s still there, like you’re still flip flopping back and forth between the two and the practice here in the 40 days is to really get into a practice of siding with the truth. To side with the truth, and to see how long you can hold it.

I really want you to see how long can stay centered, in joy, in love, how long until something comes along and pulls me back off track again. That would be a good thing to look for, I want you to start tracking it, is it 10 minutes? Is it an hour, can you do it for 2 hours or for 3 hours or 5, can you do it for 24 hours? How many days can you go? Just to be aware, just to be aware, there’s nothing right or wrong or good or bad, you just want to become aware just how long the thought, and what you’ll start to notice is that you’ve never been noticing. It’s a beautiful thing, it’s exciting because you’re mind watching, you’re watching your mind and becoming very conscious, whereas, before you were sleeping. That’s what it means to be asleep. You were just in a world, going to your job, just being in your relationship and not being aware of where you were in the situation and now you recognize you’re the center. You’re the center and you choose your reactions, your thoughts, your words, in every moment and so you really do come into mastery then, like you really do start to
see, there’s nothing that can tempt you anymore, nothing, nothing will tempt you because you’ll recognize you made a promise, you made a promise before you were born that you were going to remember your identity in God and now it’s happening. It’s happening! We’re in a space and you’ll start to see it really happening, this is really for real, this stuff is for real. And you might get afraid with that you might get afraid.

I know people who are afraid of happiness, I know that sounds strange, but I know people who just get very afraid when things start going right all the time and then they do something, they do something just because conflict has been such a normal state of mind for so long, that it’s just more comfortable there. You’re more comfortable with fear, you’re more comfortable living with your excuses and your sicknesses and with your doubt then to rise up into your full majesty.

So this is the practice. To not be tempted. When you continually and consistently say NO to the thoughts which are demanding your attention, eventually they will go away.

“That the adversary left him alone; and behold the angels drew near and ministered to him.”

That is EXACTLY what happens with your “ego.” It’s going to keep tempting you until finally you say to it: “GO AWAY, LEAVE ME ALONE, I WILL NOT BE TEMPTED.” And then it will leave you alone – the ego literally goes away because it no longer has any power – and the angels draw near and minister to you.

Forty days is a time of “fasting” and temptation and questioning and growing in
faith. It’s a time when the old is swept away and the space is made brand new.

“Sometimes your only available transportation is a leap of faith.”
-Margaret Shepard

PRAISE THE LORD.

“Temptation has one lesson it would teach, in all its forms, wherever it occurs. It would persuade the holy Son of God he is a body, born in what must die, unable to escape its frailty, and bound by what it orders him to feel. It sets the limits on what he can do; its power is the only strength he has; his grasp cannot exceed its tiny reach.”- A Course in Miracles

Today, Day 6, be aware of temptations that pull you into fear or littleness. What do you do when they arise? Do you stand still and allow them to dissolve in the fire? Or do you battle with them?
Reflect on this:

“When peace comes at last to those who wrestle with temptation, and fight against giving in to sin; when the light comes at last into the mind given to contemplation, or when the goal is finally achieved by anyone, it ALWAYS comes with just ONE happy realization, – “I need do nothing.” Here is the ultimate release that everyone will one day find in his own way, at his own time.” -A Course in Miracles

To experience peace does not mean that your life is always blissful. It means that you are capable of tapping into a blissful state of mind amidst the normal chaos of a hectic life.

~~ Jill Bolte Taylor

Love,

Lisa Natoli

Teachers of God Foundation