

to separate us from the wishes of God, creating havoc on earth, will become powerless to stop the new world from rising up, creating heaven on earth.

*If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten  
that we belong to each other.*

Mother Teresa

### **Step Seven: Learn the realities of creating and maintaining a spiritually based life of Oneness**

#### ***The Ego has disconnected you from God***

In a perfect world, where people truly care for each other, there is a need for only minimal government, leaving room for everyone to create anything they desire with as little interference as possible. But, as long as the ego is running the show, a greater government body is needed to protect people from those who care more for their own interests than the needs of anyone else. Such people have been separated through indoctrination from their internal connection with God and their Oneness with everyone else. Their lives revolve around ego gratification, with little thoughts of others.

*The community which has neither poverty nor riches  
will always have the noblest principles.*

Plato

On many occasions I have witnessed the dark side of people awakened when it comes to feeding their ego gratification through greed and money. I have attended funerals where “good” religious people—who claimed their goodness through their Sunday church attendance and reading of the Bible—were arguing over who would get what material goods from the deceased even before the casket was in the ground, instead of living as role models with their lights shining from within. The drama would continue when later discussions about material objects ended in physical fights and ongoing family feuds. I have also personally witnessed elders and everyday hardworking people being victimized and tricked out of their hard-earned savings by people with slick appearances or so-called reputable institutions—all out of greed—forcing the good people into a life of helplessness. This lack of compassion and disrespect for our fellow human beings is the work of the dark forces, which are the evil forces at work.

Too many people have forgotten that their obligation is to serve a higher purpose than themselves by caring for one another. The falling away from this important

spiritual law can be seen dramatically in all parts of society among all types of people. But instead of viewing this as a failure, it's important to recognize that this effect has resulted from society's belief that feeding the ego is satisfying. Even though most people realize that ego gratification is not the correct way to live, we all get caught up in the competitive urges to prove we can succeed based on society's standards.

Along with everything else we have received from God, we have also been blessed with free will. The choices we make—even those that are in opposition to what we know is the correct way to live—create our realities from which we can learn and grow as individuals, as groups, as a nation, and as a world. And it's ironic that our opportunities for growth can sometimes be greatest when we are led astray by ego gratification. This is one of the best ways for us to learn, grow, and evolve so that eventually we can create heaven on earth.

*A creative man is motivated by the desire to achieve,  
not the desire to beat others.*

Ayn Rand

There is a strong lesson to be learned from the present economic conditions and meltdown that are affecting everyone. Instead of being fearful by what we face during this difficult time, we should thank God and be grateful for the opportunity to be reminded of what is the truth. Because once we realize the truth of what is happening, prolonging a bad situation—either personally, as a group or a nation—does nobody any good, as it only stops us from growing. When something has gone wrong it is important to recognize the source of the problem, which is usually the belief system that led us astray. Trying to right a wrong by intervening based on the same belief system will only cause the situation to continue. Instead of throwing more money into ineffective parts of the economy, we must recognize that those parts that are not working need to adapt or cease to exist. The economy needs to be dealt with the same way as our individual lives in regard to spirituality. To correct a situation, it's of great importance to change what caused the collapse, otherwise it will be like treating a junkie by giving him or her more drugs, instead of having him or her detox.

*The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction,  
is the first and only object of good government.*

Thomas Jefferson

God gave us the tools to make wiser choices. But many people were tempted by the ideas of those who discovered that ego-based competition and a system of stealing from others was a means to financial gain, and we bought into their faulty system. Many people forgot that there are no shortcuts to success, that hard work and dedication are required to achieve anything of value in life. Too many people chose to run our economy to its knees by feeding their egos, which is a result of society's indoctrination—victimizing people by convincing them to make wrong financial decisions while not informing them of the consequences. Agreeing to go along with such a scheme is wasting the precious chance at life we have been given. Worse yet, instead of creating lives that are aligned with God in Oneness, we are wasting our existence.

*Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government  
when it deserves it.*

Mark Twain

The good news is that during down times we have many more opportunities to learn. What we do next to change—and this means how we choose to think and what kind of reality we choose to create for ourselves—will determine whether our lives from this moment forward will be lived as part of God's kingdom. If so, the ego needs to be dis-empowered and replaced with love for something greater than ourselves. Then we will be contributing to creating heaven on earth.

### ***Consumerism makes you feel inadequate***

Many people spend their entire lives searching for meaning, and when they don't find it end up feeling discontentment and questioning if this is all there is. The lifelong chase for enlightenment for many people has been an external search because that's what we were indoctrinated to believe from a very young age. Enlightenment and happiness, we are told, can be found through external gratification. There are numerous belief systems that have been programmed into us, but most have something in common: they are based on fear and disconnect us from our true selves. Such negative programming has us believing that we are expected to behave in ways that please other people rather than do what feels right in our hearts.

We spend our lives like puppies trained through a reward and punishment system to play certain roles that we believe will result in our being accepted and liked by others. This indoctrination has caused us to be disconnected from our true selves and from God. It has been reinforced not only by people who know it is the wrong path,