

The Soup of the Soul into Sacred Substance

How do we transform the churning of our emotions, thoughts, desires, longings, and dreams into an integrated whole for our selves' own knowing and fulfillment, and then externalize that knowingness into a significant contribution to the world's understanding of itself, so that we become a dimension of the human experience realized, and therefore a self that is a light on a stand and not under a bushel?

As we seek insight into this process of becoming, we must clarify our guiding values and ultimately what we believe will enable us to become humans that reflect the Christ within us. Equity, selflessness, justice, compassion, freedom of expression, and intimate community come to mind as values to honor because they promote individual well being and the creation and development of authentic and rich human relationships that can live out the paradox of full earthly experience while storing up our true treasures with the divine.

Next, we must determine how to make these values, which antagonize each other at times, work in concert, and then determine how to apply the implications of their meaning to real-time situations. Transformation comes, then, from the intellectual exercise that this involves, as well as, and perhaps most importantly, when we feel the peace of God's grace in the midst of discernment. God in between the labored thoughts and actions helps us to recognize that God's omnipotence covers it all: his force is love and his love inspires us to reach appropriate conclusions and embodies the values just discussed. It's this love that transforms us as we seek, so that what we seek is the substance of the sacred and sanctified that we might bring about the kingdom of heaven on earth.

- Angie Simms