



Be Yourself

By

Ernest Holmes

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People are the most interesting things in the world. While it is true that we don't always get along with them as well as we might, it is also certain that we couldn't get along without them. We need each other more than we realize. The world is made up of people and human relationships are merely reactions of people to each other. Many business firms maintain human relations departments for the purpose of helping people to appreciate each other and get along together in their work.

We are told that the two things people are most interested in are love and personality. This isn't strange, because everyone wants to love and be loved; everyone wants to feel needed; everyone wishes to feel that he plays an important role in life. And we all are attracted to the person who has a winning personality.

One thing is certain -- whatever our personality may be, or whatever it is to become, is wrapped up in this one idea, there is a Spirit in man and God himself is incarnated in every living soul. This Spirit within us is the gift of heaven and without it we would not be alive. It is a recognition of this Spirit within us that is the true starting point for the development of personality.

We often think we have to pattern our lives after the lives of others. But personality, no matter how winsome it may be, or how convincing, or how dominant, is more than a mask we wear, it is a manifestation of an inner, hidden principle, a Divine spark within us which uses both the mind and the body for its own self-expression.

We could think up all the beautiful things to say or the wonderful and best method of approaching people, and study all the arts of personality development that have ever been taught, and still fall flat on our faces so far as the real personality is concerned. For personality is not the clothes we wear, nor is it our physical appearance alone. It is not just a dominant or domineering something so powerful that it brushes everything else aside. Personality is the flowering of the Spirit within us, the coming forth of a secret relationship that we all hold with God. The people who have the most completely influenced the human race throughout all the ages are those who have known this and who have made but little effort to influence others. They are the ones who have had the deepest feeling of the Divine Presence within them.

No one will ever be satisfied or happy or secure in just developing a dominant personality. For those who win their way through life by force, some day become weary with the struggle -- a mad ambition, the end of which never reaches its final goal. Personality is not an external thing at all, for everything we do and say and think, and everything that we appear to be outwardly, is always a result of some hidden fire

burning at the center of our being, some Divine Reality which we do not create but which we may discover.

I think we can say without hesitation that the person who finds himself in God, will discover, at the center of his own being, something which dominates without effort, something which does not have to assume a false front, something which, by the very nature of its being is both human and divine.

But someone may say, "But now you are introducing religious ideas that we don't want to be bothered with. What we want is something that can take us into the activities of life in a triumphant manner."

Now, this is both right and wrong. Right in that we wish to be successful in living; wrong if we think that of ourselves we can add to or take from what God already has given. For while we can, and should, develop an outer personality, back of this there is something you and I never thought up -- we didn't plan it out, we didn't create it. Finding this something is like exploring a new land into which we have not yet entered. This country already existed before we discovered it. There are heights and depths to our own being which we have not plumbed.

There is a divine person back of our personality -- a unique manifestation of the living Spirit. It is never alike in any two people. This is proved by the fact that no two person's thumb prints are alike, no two blades of grass are alike, no two any things are identical. And yet, everything is rooted in one Life, one Presence, and one Power. Why, then, should we expect that any two individuals must be alike? We shouldn't even think or believe that they ought to or can be identical. For God Himself has placed a unique stamp on everyone. We should not study to be alike but rather, to develop what we really are.

Unit does not mean uniformity. Our unity with other people never means that we must think and act as they do. All it means is that we should get along with them. We should unify with everything, while at the same time keeping intact and whole that God-given something at the center of our being which is the real ego.

To find this true center that is the end and aim of our search, this Divine Person within us and within everyone, which in a sense, has one hand placed in the hand of God and the other out-stretched to humanity, for the one who finds himself in God will discover God in others. He will look through different eyes than the one who thinks that he is alone. He draws a strength and an inspiration from Life itself, for no man can live without God and be whole.

I am not worried about those who are afraid of spiritual ideas, for the one who thinks that he can live without reliance on some Power greater than he is, would be like a tree that tries to grow without first taking root in the soil which gives it life. How soon it

would wither and die. Always, the roots that go down into the soil must be equal to the foliage at the surface.