

July/August, 2009

Surviving to Thriving:

Shifting the Pivot Point of our Life and our Consciousness

Conscious living requires a regular mental and spiritual checkup. From time to time, even moment to moment, we need to be keenly aware of the fulcrum or pivot around which our lives and our conscious rotate. Indeed, there are times when our primary focus is and ought to be on basic survival. The biological and social survival mechanism is built into us and requires no special effort to maintain. When operating in this mode all our energy and attention are focused narrowly on what we believe we need to survive. This is essentially an automatic response to our environment, or perceived security-threats. This state of being can go on indefinitely unless there is an intervention brought about by a change either in our circumstances or some spiritual breakthrough. Spiritual growth implies the ability to consciously activate a change of focus so higher order affects that can dramatically change our lives can come into being.

A great spiritual teacher, Charles Fillmore who co-founded the now worldwide Unity Movement said that the purpose of human existence is to demonstrate the truth of our being. By this he seems to me to be in alignment with some aspect of my understanding of what Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 8: 19-ff:

“For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; ...for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”

To me this means that life remains essentially on survival level unless and until redeemed by a higher order spiritual consciousness. Focused on mere survival energy, our life is filled with futility and frustration. This sense of futility and frustration can ultimately get so uncomfortable that it becomes a force or motivation for evolution to higher consciousness. We yearn for something better and in a moment of heightened awareness and wakefulness we find ourselves shifting to a higher pivot point for our life.

It is as if we are remembering again that the purpose of our life is to ‘demonstrate the truth of our Being.’ We awaken to the truth that we are children of God, born from above with inherent ability and responsibility to lift the lower world to heaven’s standard.

There is no doubt that many of us, like others all over the world, have recently been focused primarily on survival. This is true of society, our churches and our organizations. Yet, in the midst of us there continue to be visionary leaders urging us to shift our energy and consciousness from Survival to Thriving.

We, at Unity South Church are ready to shift from Surviving to Thriving. I’ve recently returned from the annual conference of the Association of Unity Churches International and was thrilled to notice that in spite of the prevailing economic condition around the world, there is a heightened energy pervading the movement that seems to proclaim from every face: This is our time to thrive! The atmosphere was electrifying and infectious!

Our next step, both individually and as a community is to consciously make the shift from

surviving to thriving. Let's declare that we are done with circling around survival energy system...it is time to thrive!

“
Turn the great energy of your thinking toward "plenty" ideas, and you will have plenty regardless of what men [people] about you are saying or doing.”

- Charles Fillmore

It is our time to thrive; let's get with it- changing the pivot point of our energy and consciousness!

Blessings and love,
Rev. Festus