

The Problem of Politics

A War in Heaven Come to Earth

In this modern era, many people are confused, bemused and even disgusted by the current state of the body politic. Intense polarization has fostered excessively aggressive and vicious behavior within the various political factions. In order to understand this phenomena we must consider that politics is just another kind of war. It is a 'war of ideas,' fought with words, and it's warriors are called *politicians*.

Furthermore, the Bible describes this mental conflict as a 'War in Heaven,' that takes place within the collective soul of any group of people, whether it be a nation, a state or even a local PTA. Additionally, it could just as easily be a family, a business or a fraternal organization. Whenever human beings come together with conflicting ideas in mind, 'the war is on!'

Down through the ages, the *Masters of Wisdom* have always taught us that nothing happens on the 'physical side of life' except that it has first occurred on the 'invisible side of life,' which is within the Soul. Consequently, the outcome of the wars fought in heaven are not without physical consequences. Furthermore, just as in an actual war, no one remains unaffected by the political skirmishes that take place in their presence. Therefore, thinking that political battles have nothing to do with us is naïve, foolish and perhaps even costly. This is why it behooves us to fully embrace this situation with Wisdom in order to place ourselves on the side of Victory.

Choosing Sides is Not Easy

A political war, like all human conflicts, requires us to take sides, whether it is over an issue, or a candidate. Our natural human tendency is to pick the side we like. Yet, if we make our judgment on the basis of appear-

ances, or rely solely upon our feelings, we will almost always make the wrong decision. This is why Jesus advised us to "Judge not by appearances, but judge righteous judgment." (John 7:24) In other words, we should always make our decisions on the basis of wisdom, and understanding. Additionally, the Buddha cautioned us to realize that, "Those who live according to their likes and dislikes (feelings) live in bondage."

This situation is further complicated by the fact that making a political choice is like encountering a fork in the road, where we must choose between the 'Hard Road' and the 'High Road' in Life. This again would seem to be an easy decision, however it is not. This is because the Hard Road *appears* to be easy at the beginning, for all we have to do is simply follow our likes and dislikes, based upon appearances. Not only that, it is also the path that everyone else around us seems to be following. However, if we take this path, we will find that it gets harder as we go along. This is because 'evil always works at first,' and provides a temporary solution to a deep-seated problem, that only becomes more deeply ingrained by our erroneous actions.

On the other hand, the High Road seems difficult at the beginning, but gets easier as we go along. This is because it is the 'Path of Righteousness,' or what the Buddha called the 'Royal Middle Way,' which lies in between our likes and dislikes, but is always above them both. This arduous Path requires us to rise up into a higher state of consciousness in order to make a right decision, and only then can we move forward with ease and grace.

Unfortunately, it is quite easy for us to be deceived into believing that the Hard Road is the High Road, when it is not. This is because the

'master skill' of every politician is the ability to use the 'weapon of words' to deceive unsuspecting people into supporting them. This is why we must embrace the old adage that 'actions speak louder than words.' It is not uncommon for politicians to use lofty words to stir the noblest qualities of our souls, and then to see them behave in ways that contradict their exalted proclamations.

Therefore, we must never forget the cautionary words of the prophet Isaiah, "Woe onto those who see good for evil, and evil for good." (Isaiah 5:20) This precaution is fulfilled by the very first step of the 'Eightfold Path of the Buddha,' which requires us to always begin with 'Right Vision.' In other words, we must see things as they truly are, without the filters of preconceived notions, based upon a lack of knowledge and understanding. Following are some important points of wisdom concerning the nature of politics.

'Principles Are Not Bound by Politics.'

Just as 'Principles are not bound by precedents,' then so indeed they are not bound by those who represent political precedents, which are the politicians. In other words, our good comes from God not from the government, or it's agents, which are the politicians, who endlessly pretend to have the solution to social problems. However, politics is not the solution to every problem, it is more often the very cause of the problem. In fact, many of the problems that confront society today were once political solutions.

This is because politicians endlessly confront social problems with 'rubber wrench solutions,' that make it appear that they are doing something, while they are only allowing the condition to get worse. Try to imagine any attempt to fix a leaky pipe with a wrench made out of rubber. No matter how

much we twist and turn the wrench, it will have no effect upon the pipes.



An Analogy of Understanding

Government is like a cloud in the sky. There is no question that we need the clouds to bring the rain that is necessary for flora and fauna to flourish upon the earth. However, without the Light that comes from the Sun, there would be no clouds, or life as we know it on this planet. If this world was totally consumed with a constant covering of clouds, it would be a very dark, dreary and depressing place to live, and very little would grow except for fungus and moss.

More importantly, we must realize that a cloud cannot create a sunny day, except by getting itself out of the way. Yet, many foolishly believe that the 'clouds of government' can provide us with *everything* that we need to live a happy life. However, without the Light that comes from the 'Spiritual Sun' above them, the clouds will constantly 'rain on our parade,' and keep us in the dark like a plot of mushrooms.

Beware of False Prophets

We must always keep in mind that politicians are basically 'false prophets,' and their 'false prophecies' are their campaign promises, which are rarely ever fulfilled. Consider for a moment that most politicians running for election seek to win the voters favor by promising to bring an end to some intolerable condition that exists within our society.

However, the Great Law of Life reveals that 'whatever we are against we are creating.' Consequently, the politician is little more than the 'face of the forces' that are actually causing the problem. Furthermore, despite their good intentions, whatever actions they might take will usually make the problems worse. This is because they judge by appear-

ance, and lack the understanding that the condition they're trying to resolve has been created by an 'error belief,' held not only by the politicians, but also by the people who elected them. Until those beliefs have been dispelled, the condition will persist, and only grow worse through the efforts of politicians.

For example, in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson declared a 'War on Poverty.' However, despite an astronomical increase in government spending on social programs since that time, the poverty rate remains about the same.

Place Your Faith in Truth

Ultimately, the only way out of the morass of politics is to simply vote for Truth. Therefore, we must always keep in mind that there are always three candidates in every election. First, there's our candidate, and then there is the other candidate. More importantly, there is also God's candidate, which is the 'Christ in us,' that's also within both of the other candidates.

If we truly believe that something terrible will happen to us if our candidate does not win, and then they lose, we had best prepare ourselves to endure what we believe is going to happen, for it most likely will. This is because we 'receive what we believe,' according to the Great Law of Life. However, if we choose to believe that only good will come to us regardless of who wins the election, then so shall it be.

The way to ensure the latter result, is to remember that voting is an 'act of faith,' and when we place our faith in someone that can change without our consent, we will usually live in fear. However, if we place our faith in an unchanging source of Goodness, we will always live in Grace. The way that we can accomplish this is to always remember that 'God is Love.'

Therefore, to place our faith in God, we must embrace both of the worldly candidates with Love. This is accomplished through real spiritual practice. Ironically, if we can learn to Love the candidate that we dislike, we will receive more blessings into our lives than if the candidate that we like were to actually to win. ☺

~ Spiritual Practices ~

The Election Prayer

Routinely perform this simple prayer in preparation for any important election.

God I Am, living Christ in me, is here and there and everywhere; The God I Am is even within the minds and hearts of every American citizen; And it is there that I declare that each and every one of these blessed souls will be divinely guided on election day, to cast their votes in such a way, that the highest and greatest good of the United States of America will be served.

I'm grateful God is gracious, I'm grateful I am Free. I am grateful that our 'trust in God,' brings Freedom now to everyone, from sea to shining sea. Amen! ☺

The Praising Prayer

An excellent way to embody the 'Election Prayer' above is to perform a series of the following 'Praising Prayer,' first for one candidate, then the other.

*I praise _____ **

*I raise _____ **

*In the Name of _____ ****

* Insert the name of each candidate. Also, praise 'all citizens,' and finally the 'USA.'

** Insert the Quality of God that best embraces your intention, such as Freedom, Love or even the name of 'Jesus Christ.'

(See attachment.)

The Political Imagination Prayer

Perform this prayer routinely whenever you feel upset or powerless about political situations, or the activities of politicians.

Politics have no place in me, politics have no power over me. Politics are what I have imagined it would be like if I were not like Jesus Christ. So I cast down my imaginations of politics into the 'Sea of Nothingness' from which they came. For indeed, it has been written that "The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want... He forgives all my iniquities, heals all my diseases, redeems my flesh from death and renews my youth like the Eagles," and for this I do give thanks. Amen ! ☺

(Psalms 23, Psalms 104)

The Oneness Prayer

If you harbor an intense dislike for any political candidate it is important to perform the following prayer on a regular basis until you can 'accept and bless' them with ease and grace.

There is only One Life! This Life is Good! This Life is God! This Life is my Life now! In knowing that I am one with the Life that is God... I, therefore, know that I am one with each and every expression of this divine and sacred Life, which includes beloved

_____ * .

*Because I know that the One Life of God cannot be against itself... I, therefore know that I cannot be against _____ * nor can _____ * be against me. But, together in the One Life that is God,*

_____ * *and I can only be for a fuller and greater expression of our own true nature, which is Love. . . . And out of the self-giving nature of that Love, there can only be an harmonious interaction, perfect Peace and Freedom for us both.*

*Therefore, I give thanks for the presence of _____ * in my life. For by that presence I have been shown a part of myself that I have yet to fully Love, a part of myself*

(Sep. '20)

which I now invite into the Wholeness of my Being, which is Christ. And in this Awareness of Oneness I now give thanks to the Glory of God for the healing power and presence of Love in my life. I am Grateful God is Gracious. Amen ☺

* Insert the name of the candidate you are seeking a healing with.

The Great GodSong Chant

Performing this chanting posture prayer for about 10 minutes following the Oneness Prayer, will serve to embody your intention to Love.

God's the Love that I Am.

_____ * *is the Love that I Am.*

God's the Love that I Am.

_____ * *is the Love I Am.*

* Insert candidates name.

(See attachment)

The Love Prayer

This is an especially effective prayer whenever you find yourself in reaction to any politician on TV, or in any other visual media.

Silently and continuously say:

(On the in-breath) *"I accept _____."**

(On the out-breath) *"I bless _____."**

* Insert candidates name.

(See attachment)

The QuickStop Prayer

This is an especially effective prayer whenever you find yourself thinking in a negative manner about any politician, or person who might hold objectionable political views.

Clap your hands in front of your face, and say:

*STOP! Any thought that does not reveal something good about _____ * is a lie from the beginning; and I do not believe in lies, I believe in Jesus Christ, for it is written: "you shall Love your neighbor as yourself."*

Amen ! ☺

* Insert candidates name.

(See attachment)

The Golden Rule

Ultimately, all of the practices listed above are just variations upon the 'Golden Rule:'

*"Do unto others as you would
have them do unto you."*

Therefore, we must always carefully inspect the way that we speak and think about any politician or person who might hold opposing political views. Then we must ask ourselves, *"Is this how I want people to speak and think about me."* If we want people to think of us as wise and loving, then that is how we must act, even when we believe that no one can see or hear us, for God hears us always.

"Father... I know that you hear me always."

(John 11:42)

Rev. Lloyd Strom
September 2016








The Praising Prayer




I/I

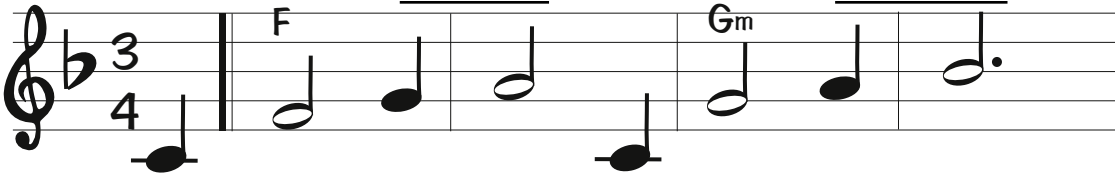
The 'Praising Prayer' is both a 'Posture Prayer' and a 'Chanting Hymn' combined to facilitate healing by lifting us into a higher state of consciousness. It was inspired by the words of the great Christian mystical healer Mrs. Emma Curtis Hopkins, who said:



"If I were to be asked directly as to the quickest way for a person to get their healing power going, I would probably say, Praise everything and everyone in your mind, and if you wish to have your mental convictions demonstrate promptly, then speak these praises aloud."

(Version 1)  I **Praise** God. I'm **Raised** by God. 

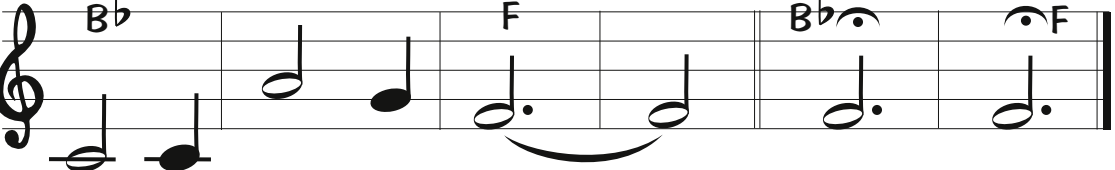
(Version 2)  I **Praise** My Life.  I **Raise** My Life. 


(Version 3)  I **Praise** Your Life!  I **Raise** Your Life! 



(Version 1,2,3)  (Last line is the same for all three versions.) 

In the Name of Love²..... (3X) Amen.



1. Use the actual name of any person, place, organization or circumstance that you wish to either praise or raise, in order to experience a healing with.
 2. Use the name of any Quality of God, such as Peace, Beauty, Freedom, Joy, etc. Or, you can use the name of any perfected being such as Jesus, Mary, Buddha, etc.
-  You can hear a sample of the Praising Prayer online at: www.SacredDays.org

NOTE: With a little practice you should be able to coordinate the bodily postures shown with the lyrics of the chant. This process is highly effective, even without the musical component. So, if you are unable to remember the melody, or read the musical score, simply perform the postures, and speak the lyrics out loud in a chant like manner.

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A Prayer for the Healing of My Relationship with:

_____ Name _____

_____ Date _____

There is only One Life! This Life is Good! This Life is God! This Life is my Life now!

In knowing that I am “one” with the Life that is God . . . I, therefore, know that I am “one” with each and every expression of this divine and sacred Life, which includes beloved _____.

Because I know that the One Life of God cannot be against Itself . . . I, therefore know that I cannot be against _____, nor can _____ be against me.

Together, in the perfect Wholeness of the One Life that is God, _____ and I can only be for a fuller and greater expression of our own true nature, which is Love. . . . And out of the self-giving nature of this Love, *there can only be a Harmonious Integration, and a glorious Revelation of the Wholeness, Perfection and Beauty of God through my physical flesh body, now.*

I give thanks for the presence of _____ in my life. For by this presence I have been shown a part of myself that I have yet to Love, a part of myself which I now invite into the Wholeness of my Being, which is Christ.

And it is in this Awareness of Oneness that I give thanks to the Glory of God for the healing power and presence of Love in my life.

I am Grateful God is Gracious.

Amen 🍀

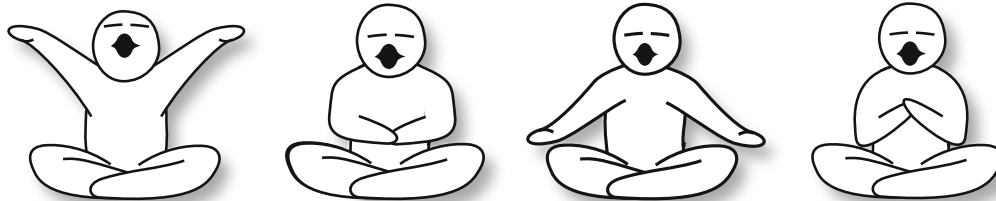
Instructions: In each of the blanks above, insert the name of the person, group or entity that you are seeking a healing with. Read the prayer aloud at least once a day until some positive change in the relationship has taken place. You will notice that the other party is either changing in some benevolent way towards you, or they are simply fading out of your life without incident.


'The Great Commandment of Life'

"You shall love the Lord thy God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all you mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ..Matt. 22:37-40

The Great GodSong Chant fulfils the Great Commandment of Life. This posture-prayer chant can be performed on a regular basis as a part of a 'daily dedicated Spiritual Practice.' It can also be engaged whenever you are troubled for any reason. Simply continue to perform the prayer until you begin to experience an '*inner peace*' about whatever the situation might be. It is then suggested that you continue even further until you enter into a felt sense of gratitude and full acceptance about the condition. This is your assurance that healing has taken place in the soul, as well as in the body.

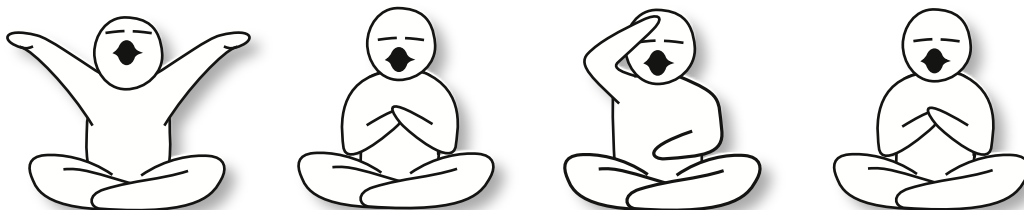
Outer Version: Use this version for blessing and/or healing outer conditions and relationships, as well as the releasing of resentments.





God's the Love that I Am... My Neighbor* is the Love that I Am...
God's the Love that I Am... My Neighbor is the Love that I Am...


*For the term 'My Neighbor' you can substitute the name of any individual, organization or object of your attention that you wish to forgive, bless or protect. Suggestion: One of the most beneficial substitutions that you can make for the term 'Neighbor,' is to use the word 'Father' in the first line, and the word 'Mother' in second line. This is because God has promised us that if we "*honor our Father and Mother we will live long and prosper.*" (Exodus 20:12) This Promise is a 'divine potential' that exists within us all, and it can only be revealed by a confession of Love.

Inner Version: For self-healing, self-forgiveness and the releasing of regrets.

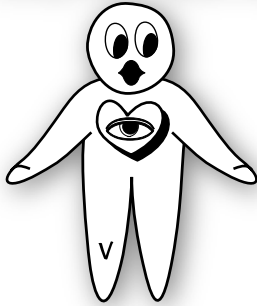



God's the Love that I Am... (My Name)* is the Love that I Am...
God's the Love that I Am... (My Name) is the Love that I Am...

*Keep in mind that the very first Neighbor that our Spirit encounters in this world is our very own human personality, or body-mind, also as known as 'the Beast.' In this sense, our Spirit is the Beauty that transforms our Beast with Love.

 **Note:** This chant is to be sung to the melody of the original 'GodSong Chant,' which is available in mp3 format at: www.SacredDays.org. You can download, and use the 'instrumental version' to facilitate this practice.

I Accept You... I Bless You...



The Two Outcomes of Love

1. Whatever I love will change, or;
2. Whatever I love will go away.

Purpose: Self-Contemplation

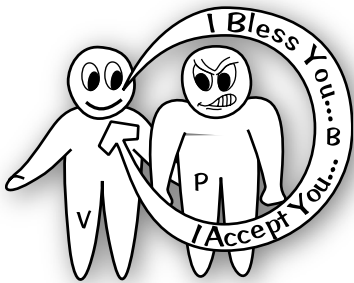
Intention: To duplicate the activity of Love by 'accepting and blessing' all that arises in your experience of life.

Principle:

Until you can accept the worst, the best can never be. If your energy and attention is always devoted to keeping something bad from happening, it cannot be used to create something new and better in your life. The underlying principles that lie behind this practice are:

- ▶ Whatever you *resist* will persist and grow stronger.
- ▶ Whatever you *accept* you can change.
- ▶ Whatever you *bless*, you will change for good.
(For the better and forever.)

The Love Prayer Procedure



Other Options:

- "I Accept This...I Bless This."
- "I Accept My Thoughts...I Bless My Thoughts."
- "I Accept My Feelings...I Bless My Feelings."
- "I Accept Myself...I Bless Myself."
- "I Accept ____ ...I Bless ____."
- "I am Accepting...I am Blessing."

Give your full attention to whoever or whatever is presently before you. As distracting thoughts and judgments arise in your mind, gently push them aside in order to engage the following procedure:

On your inhale, silently say: "I Accept You..."

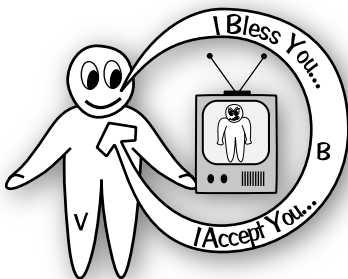
On your exhale, silently say: "I Bless You..."

Once your mind has quieted down, see if you can hold your attention steadily upon the person you are noticing or listening to. As your mind again intrudes, notice where it wants to go, and then gently bring it back to *stillness*, using the procedure described above.

Meditation

Meditation is the art of *stilling* the mind to listen to the *silent* voice of God. Therefore, this technique can also be used for this purpose by simply 'accepting and blessing' intruding thoughts and feelings as they arise. (See 'Other Options' to the left.)

An Easy Way to Practice



A way to practice this technique is by using our television. We all know certain individuals who regularly appear on television who upset us in some fashion. As a form of spiritual practice, you can tune to the programs where these people appear, and then attempt to really listen to them. If they are extremely upsetting to you, try turning off the sound, and use the 'Love Prayer' procedure until you are *calm* once again. Then, very gradually begin turning up the volume. Once you have developed the capacity to listen to these upsetting individuals in a "mood of love," you have taken one more step towards finding heaven on earth.

Principle of the Prayer

The 'QuickStop' Prayer is an easy spiritual practice designed to dispel troubling thoughts the moment they arise. This prayer practice is based on the Spiritual Truth that any thought that does not reveal something good for yourself or another is a 'lie from the beginning.'

Form of the Prayer

• There are five basic elements to this prayer process:

1. First, stop the thought process.
2. Then, say what you don't believe.
3. Then, say what you do believe.
4. Then, say why you believe what you believe.
5. Finally, conclude with a statement of covenant, or acceptance.

• Following is the universal form of the prayer which is to be individualized by you to meet each specific need that you may have:

STOP! Any thought that does *not* reveal (insert something good) for me, or for another is a lie from the beginning. I do not believe in lies. I believe in the Word of God. For it is written: (insert a scriptural promise) . Amen!

• Here is a general example of the prayer:

STOP! Any thought that does *not* reveal something good for me is a lie from the beginning. I do not believe in lies. I believe in the Word of God. For it is written: "All things work together for the good of those who love God." Amen! (Romans 8:28)

Practice of the Prayer

- Immediately use this prayer anytime you have a thought that causes you to suffer.
- Whenever possible, say the prayer aloud with as much authority as you can muster.
- If you are in a public place, you may wish to perform the prayer silently.
- When possible, clap your hands in front of your face when you say the beginning word "STOP." Then hold your hands in a prayer position as you say the rest of the prayer. Conclude by placing your hands over your heart and bowing your head as you finish with your "Amen," or another alternative ending.
- Other effective alternative endings are: "It is finished." "So be it now." "That's the Truth." "It's in God's hands now." "I am grateful God is gracious."
- Your scriptural passage can be any statement of Truth that inspires you and awakens your faith. Try to personalize the wording of your passage so that it makes sense in the context of the overall prayer.
- You are encouraged to write your own specific prayer for any continuing thought pattern that is troubling you. Then, continue to use that prayer until the pattern is gone, no matter how long it takes. The harder it is to do, the greater the healing effect it will have.

Examples of the Prayer

STOP! Any thought that does *not* reveal perfect health for me is a lie from the beginning. I do not believe in lies. I believe in the Word of God. For it is written: "The Lord forgives all my iniquities and heals all my diseases." Amen. (Psalms 103:3)

STOP! Any thought that does *not* reveal prosperity for me is a lie from the beginning. I do not believe in lies. I believe in the Word of God. For it is written: "The Lord is my shepherd and I shall not want," and that's the Truth. (Psalms 23:1)

Here's the hardest one of them all:

STOP! Any thought that does *not* reveal my love for (name of someone you're upset with) is a lie from the beginning. I do not believe in lies. I believe in Jesus Christ. For it is written: "You shall love one another as I have loved you." Amen. (John 13:34)