



Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Navigating Life – With Divine Ideas and Thoughts

...whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, *think about these things*.

The Apostle Paul
Philippians 4:8 (NRSV)

Today is February 3, the 34th day of the year 2021. I am searching my mind's storage to determine what actually happened to January and the first 2 days of February. The days went fast and with little joy and promise of improvement from the previous year. I pray the avalanche of 2020 will cease sliding down hill soon. I keep thinking, "when I get those Covid vaccines, everything will be right with the world again." Hmmm, I wonder.

Complicated it is to remember my granddaughters' high school graduation year. She has completed half of what many consider the best year of life...High School Senior. Regrettably, her senior year has been blockaded by pandemics, riots, political conflicts, and...and...and... . Fortunately her achievements have delivered athletic and academic scholarship offers from a variety of universities. Out of the ashes rises a phoenix.

It was pleasing when she reported her class would experience many of the usual Senior events with the aid of media. Good to know, but the idea of going to prom and graduation ceremony via Zoom just doesn't feel right. I am so proud of all of our family for having fought through the frightening events and remain smiling, happy and confident individuals. I am equally proud of how the readers of these words have managed the chaos, and in some cases...loss, yet each of you continue to remain positive in thinking and deeds.

Believing that we are all children of God means we are forever linked with the Divine. Being connected to God and the Universe with positive ideas and thoughts helps each of us realize there may be a book to be written, a song to be crooned, or a well-manicured and delectable garden to wander thru and feed our body. There may be an emotional inspiration to teach or take on new projects and learning opportunities. They are just waiting for you and me to engage our positive thinking and walk bravely into the future.

There are many ways to express ourselves, and at all times, they begin within our mind. It is the "things we think about" that make a difference. We are blessed with beautiful minds filled with extreme powers of creativity and visions of grandeur to enhance events for time to come. The fields of creativity are ripe and ready in all of us to harvest ideas and dreams for new life adventures.

Those ideas ripen when we follow the words of the Apostle Paul to the Church in Philippi in the first century, and ultimately to us in the twenty-first century. They were then, and we are now told to think about whatever is *true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, and commendable*. Paul wrote to Philippians and all Christians to be “aware of excellence and anything worthy of praise”, and to *think about these things*.

God and the unlimited potential resources of the universe are the supplier of our creative longings. The possibilities are infinite and boundless. For more years than I can recall, I have read, re-read, cited, and quoted a little book titled “As a Man Thinketh” written by James Allen.¹

I end this TALK with words from Allen’s writing. These words are on page 64 in a volume with a total of 68 pages.

*In all human affairs there are efforts, and there are results, and the strength of the effort is the measure of the result.
Chance is not.*

“Gifts,” powers, material, intellectual, and spiritual possessions are the fruits of effort; they are thoughts completed, objects accomplished, visions realized.

The Vision that you glorify in your mind, the Ideal that you enthrone in your heart—this you will build your life by, this you will become.

May our dreams and visions include a time we all reunite in places we love, among people we cherish, to worship and love as our hearts desire. Think about these things.

Peace always,

Ted

¹ “As a man thinketh” James Allen, De Vorss Publications. www.devorss.com