



The conflict between being and doing

I think it's very important that we know our identity. We need to know where we find our identity. Is it our being or is it our doing?

You may ask, what's the difference? I think Jesus explained this to his disciples in the following parable.

Luke 15:11-32.

But he said, "A man had two sons; and the younger of them said to the Father: Father, give me the part of the property that falls to me! And he shared with them the possessions.

The younger son had understood who he was and what rights he had. He knew that he was his father's heir and that he was entitled to his share of his father's inheritance after reaching his maturity and coming of age.

13 And after not many days, the younger son brought all things together, and

traveled away to a distant land, and there he wasted his fortune, living lavishly. 14 But when he had consumed all things, a tremendous famine came upon that land, and he himself began to suffer shortages. 15 And he went forth, and hung himself upon one of the citizens of that land, who sent him unto his fields to herd pigs. 16 And he desired to fill his belly with the pods which the pigs ate; and no one gave him.

Even if we have understood what we are entitled to, we are in danger if we are not on solid ground to waste all the good gifts or misuse them. The younger son is the classic example.

17 But when he went into himself, he said, How many of my father's day laborers have an abundance of bread, but I am dying of hunger here. 18 I will go out and go unto my Father, and will say unto him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before you, 19 I am no longer worthy to be called thy son! Make me like one of your day laborers!"

Quite typical is the reaction, when we have screwed everything up, we look for a way out, how we could be accepted again. Let me only continue to live, work, work and work my life as a day labourer. This seems to give us some justification for being allowed to approach the Father again. The most important thing, however, is that we approach God as repentant sons.

20 And he went forth and went unto his father. But when he was still far away, his father saw him and was moved inside and ran and fell around his neck and kissed him. 21 But the Son said unto him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, I am no longer worthy to be called thy Son. 22 But the father said unto his slaves, "Quickly bring out the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and sandals on his feet; 23 And bring the fattened calf here and slaughter it, and let us eat and be joyful! 24 For this son of mine was dead, and has come back to life, was lost, and has been found. And they started to be cheerful.

The Father's reaction gives us insight into His heart. God is love, He is a wonderful counselor, your Eternal Father, who never abandons or misses you. He is and remains the Father who loves you tenderly. His love for you will never be shaken. Jesus his Son is the healer of broken hearts and the comforter of all mourners. He is the one who gives us jewelry and protection instead of dirt and joys oil instead of grief garment and jubilation instead of despair.

When we come, the following happens:

- *he runs towards us*
- *takes us unreservedly into his arms*
- *kiss us*
- *cleanses us*
- *gives us a new garment, the garment of justice*
- *gives us shoes to our feet, i.e. the yoke of slavery breaks, puts its ring of authority on our hands*
- *last but not least there is a party because we have come back.*
- *this shows us the heart of the Father*

Let us now turn to the elder son. He is the type that often applies to us. Willing to work, hardworking, ready to serve, but ignorant of what really matters to God.

25 But his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and rejoicing. 26 And he called upon one of the servants, and inquired what that was. 27 But he said unto him, Your brother has come, and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf, because he has kept him healthy again. 28 But he became angry and did not want to go in. But his father went out and talked to him.

The older brother's reaction shows us how we react when God confronts us with things that do not correspond to our understanding of relationship, sonship and being close to the father's heart.

- *But he became angry and did not want to go inside.*

An absolutely childish reaction, getting angry and out of defiance, not wanting to go along with what the father has planned. The tragedy of this is that we withhold His blessing from ourselves. Because he knows exactly what is good now and what we should be part of.

Again we see the heart of the Father. Despite the fact that the older son was totally off the roll, the father went out to him and talked to him. He did not quote his son to himself, but he went and talked to

him, He reached him in his seclusion.

29 But he answered and said unto the Father, "Behold, so many years I serve thee, and I have never transgressed a commandment of thee; and you have never given me a goat that I would have been happy with my friends;

We see what the elder son meant by relationship with his father. Work, serve, toil, do not treat himself to pleasure, because the father might think that he was not aware that he had to take care of the multiplication of possessions. This conception brought him into a deep captivity. He was no different from a slave of his father.

He lived like a slave in his father's house. Through work, he wanted to please his father. All that resulted from this behavior was he enslaved himself.

30 But since this thy son has come, who has brought through your possessions with whores, thou hast slaughtered him the fattened calf.

Look at how he calls his brother "*this your son*" doesn't imply that, what about me? Who am I? He lived ...

31 But he said unto him, "Child, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours."

He had put himself on the level of a slave through his understanding of "*being accepted*." He lived only as a pseudo-son, but he did not live in the privileges to which he was entitled.

32 But one had to be joyful and rejoice "now"; for this brother of yours was dead and has come back to life and lost and has been found.

It is very important to me to convey that God is not interested in our actions, but in our being. God wants us to know who we are in Him.

He wants us to recognize:

- *That we get close to him*
- *That we are His sons and daughters.*
- *That He gave birth to us for freedom in the Holy Spirit*

He doesn't want:

- *That we enslave ourselves in programs, as pious as they are, and only cultivate a working community with him.*

In short, he is interested in us living in a *"relationship and not in a work orientation"* with him. He doesn't want anything that breaks off this personal relationship. His first priority is to live with us in a close, intense and intimate relationship.

Not we can build, watch, protect, no one thing we have to understand, that it is God who builds.

Psalm 127:12

If the Lord does not build the house, His builders work in vain. If the Lord does not guard the city, the Guard watches in vain.

It is in vain for you that you get up early, sit down late, eat the bread of hardship. That's how much he gives to his lover in his sleep.

So should we do nothing more and only sleep so that the Lord can give us gifts in our sleep? That would also be wrong: However, God wants us to rest from our works, that we stop tinkering with his construction in our own way.

He does not want us to do his work, he wants us to prepare us, that we become able to do the works he has prepared for us. Jesus has been set an example for us in all things. The secret of his success was that he did not do anything that he did not see the father do and that he did not speak anything that he did not hear the father speak. Jesus did not go his ways and did not do his works. Rather, he walked in the ways of God and did the works that the Father had prepared for him.

John 5:20.

For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself does; and he will show him works greater than these, so that you may wonder.

John 5:36.

... for the works that the Father has given me, that I may accomplish them, the works themselves that I do, testify of me that the Father has sent me.

John 14:10.

Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you, I do not speak of myself; but the Father, who abides in me, does his works.

John 4:34.

Jesus says to them: My food is that I do the will of the One who sent me and do His work.

Jesus did the works of the One who sent Him. And that's what it's all about. But we have to consider, how could Jesus know what works to do? But only by living in such a close relationship with the Father and the Holy Spirit that he could see and hear what the Father was doing and speaking.

This is the secret of resting one's own works in order to be ready to do the works of the Father. It is actually nothing more than becoming empty of ourselves that we can be filled by him.

Because one thing is simply not possible, we cannot do both, his works and ours. Either we do our works of which we know:

If the Lord does not build the house, His builders work in vain. If the Lord does not guard the city, the Guard watches in vain.

Jesus simply sums up the whole thing by saying:

John 15:5.

I am the vine, you are the vines. Whoever abides in me and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

That is what is meant. We are not able to do something that lasts forever because it comes exclusively from it. This is the case with the vine and the vine, everything we do should come out of it.

The interesting aspect of the whole thing is that if we remain in this relationship of dependency, everything that happens to us and through us is not born of our own strength and effort, but he is the one who gives us the strength to do his works. We do His works out

of his power and not ours. Thus, they are not dead works that we are not to do.

That is, when we are burned out, we should check from which source our works originate. Because it is clear, the power comes from the vine and not from the vine. All the vine has to do is stay on the vine and the fruit will certainly be produced in its time.

The critical point is only what works we do and in what force we do these works.

- I want us to become more and more dependent on the Holy Spirit. For we do not want to be burnt-out collaborators of Jesus.
- I want to explain how we come close to God and are transformed into the image of Jesus. Because otherwise it would be possible for one or the other to think that he has to do even more to get God's recognition. We have to say goodbye to some cherished dogmas:
 - *We cannot change.*
 - *We are not good.*
 - *We will never make it out of our power.*
 - *We cannot please God if we perform*

1. Corinthians 13:13

When I speak in the languages of men and angels, but have no love, I have become a sounding ore or a resounding cymbal. And if I have prophecy and know all the secrets and all the knowledge, and if I have all the faith, so that I move mountains, but have no love, then I am nothing. And if I give out all my belongings to feed the poor, and if I give my body so that I may gain glory but have no love, it is of no use to me.

Here we are explained exactly what we are missing. All areas of being human are addressed

- *Language, Communication, Relationships*
- *Intellect, Humanism*
- *Dedication to tasks and neighbors*

God questions our "*being and our work*" if we do not get the motivation of our "*being and doing*" out of him. Only when He is the basis of our being and our actions are we existent. Otherwise, we are simply "*nothings*" who mean how big and good they are, but in reality

we are non-existent.

But I don't want to tell us how we become "*nothings*", but how we can be transformed into the image of Jesus.

2. Corinthians 3:18

But we all look at the glory of the Lord with our faces exposed, and are thus transformed into the same image of glory to glory as "happens" by the Lord the Spirit.

We are not transformed by our strength and effort, but only by exposing ourselves to His glory.

But how do I expose myself to His glory? By seeking and maintaining an honest, close personal relationship with God.

We all look with our faces exposed. Without masks, not veiled, but honest and unreserved, I expose myself to his presence, his glory. This transforms us into the same image. Namely, the image of His glory, as it is done by the Lord the Spirit.

Once again, if we live in a close communion with the Holy Spirit, through this communion we are transformed into the image of Jesus. Because He brings us to Jesus and Jesus brings us to the Father. In his vicinity we become completely full of him and our being is more and more circumcised, and we become more and more like him.

This is what God has in mind for us. He wants to love us into the image of Jesus. This must simply be clear to us, we cannot work our way into his image, only his love changes and shapes us.

But how do we expose ourselves to His love? By allowing ourselves to be replenished by his presence again and again.

Ephesians 5:18-19.

And do not intoxicate yourselves with wine, in which there is debauchery, but become full of spirit by speaking to each other in psalms and hymns of praise and spiritual songs, and singing and playing to the Lord with your heart!

Become: The imperative present tense (imp) contains an invitation to do something that happens in a continuous or repeated (linear) action.

From the linguistic root it is said that we should be constantly filled with the Holy Spirit. But how then:

- *When we are together, we are to speak to each other in psalms, hymns of praise and spiritual songs.*
- *It is quite simple, namely to encourage each other, to build up and to talk about the great deeds of God.*
- *... and sing and play to the Lord in your heart!*

This is word of God applied practically. Try it and you will come close to God. Start by singing and playing to the Lord in your heart.

*What is it?
Sacred Songs und Psalms.*

When you start doing this, you will know in a short time what it feels like to live near God.