

## How to Develop Initiative

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—How to Develop Initiative.“ Coming down this morning we were talking about various things in Encinitas, and one thing was a stand up there, the vegetable stand. One of these disciples said, —You know, I just make them want those tomatoes, and buy them, and onions and other such things.“ That’s initiative! So in finding God, we should make it easy for God to buy - in other words, to want to buy our love, if we can put it that way. We must have initiative especially in finding God, which is the paramount reason for this discussion, although we will discuss initiative under other categories except religion.

First, what is initiative? A few definitions, which I have looked up - first is: a first move. You’ve got to have the initiative to make the first move. Another thing is self-reliant enterprise - initiative means a self-reliant enterprise. Another definition: the ability of independent action. If you go along just being an automaton there’s not much initiative there, although you do have to use a little to move around. But to use independent action means using your initiative; use action governed by soul consciousness. And finally, it takes initiative to get out of the rut of ordinary living.

So, with those few things in mind, let us say a few things about the cardinal requirements of initiative - the ABC’s so to speak of initiative. What are they? The first thing is that initiative means that truth must be the impetus. Truth must be the impetus in your initiative. If you know God is with you, and you have the Truth - that’s the first requirement - because knowing He is with you, it’s not too difficult to have initiative. So, truth, or as it says, “right according to divine law,” and that divine law is that God is in us! And so that’s the first cardinal requisite of initiative.

The second is faith. Faith - not ordinary belief. Strong belief is good, but faith is better, because through faith, which means —without breath“, - I will not go into a metaphysical discussion - but when we have faith we’re above outward consciousness, and we are in the realm of intuition where we can feel the presence of God. Having that - having that, we attain great calmness, and then, with that calmness we can receive intuitional guidance, which is so important in taking the initiative. You do not want to take the initiative if your guidance is wrong, do you? No! So that’s a very important point. A cardinal requirement is to have faith that you receive the right guidance. We say, —Father, guide my actions; lead me to do the right thing. I will will, I will reason, but guide Thou...”

How can you receive God's guidance unless you have that state of faith, or calmness within? Having that, then He can guide you. So the second cardinal requisite or requirement is faith. And another thing, when you have faith, your will, instead of being just the ego-guided will, is God's will in you - is wisdom-guided will. Think what initiative you can take if you feel not this little circumscribed ego, but God's will in you. That comes with contact with God through faith.

And so, having a strong will comes with faith. Faith is the second of the cardinal requirements for initiative. And the third is action. Action! We can have initiative in our mind and imagination - lots of it! But we have to bring it out into the realm of the realization of it empirically. We have to bring it outside into worldly life into religious life, into all sorts of lives.

So, there you have the three cardinal requirements to use your initiative. Remember them. First, truth must be the impetus. That is, you cannot afford to get off on the wrong foot, so to speak. You must have the initiative because truth is the impetus. God is with you as the greatest example - that's sufficient truth for you to go ahead in a religious way and use your initiative to find God and bring Him into your daily life. The second is faith, because faith takes you into the breathless state where you contact not your intellect, senses or mind, but the intuition of God in you. Don't you think you'll be guided correctly?

And the third is action. Do something about it! Get the lethargy out of you. As the Master said, —I don't like indifferent yogis.“ We must be active yogis. And so if you remember those three things it'll help you œ it will help us all in using our initiative.

Now going ahead with the different examples of initiative; the first, as I had said, is taking the first move that required great initiative. Take the first move. Let us think just for a moment about Columbus. Think of the initiative he had to start out sailing for an unknown place. He must have had truth behind him. He must have felt God in him, and he had the faith to know that God would guide him. So, he used those cardinal requirements - the ABC's of initiative. When he started out he had truth - He knew according to divine law that God would lead him. He had the faith in which he retained his calmness, and didn't turn back at various stages; and he did it, showing that he used action. He had that great dream in his mind - he probably did for a while - but he got out in the realm of realization of his dream, and he performed action.

Take the case of (Charles) Lindbergh - I think that's one of greatest. Think of the faith and the realization of divine law within him that God was with him. And finally, think of the courage it took to put it into action, which he did. He used initiative. Why? Because he used those cardinal requirements - truth that

God was with him. You read his book & you will see he knew that faith, in which he had the calmness to carefully, calmly, plot out his course, and when the different emergencies came up he handled them as you'll read in his book. Why? Because he was one with God through faith. And the greatest thing - he did it! He didn't just keep it here. He did it! He put it into action! So you have a couple of illustrations of one of the definitions of initiative: —a first move“. Be different from somebody else! I think he was the first one, wasn't he? - to fly the Atlantic alone from New York to Paris. It took lots of initiative. It took lots of those three things: truth, faith and action! So, we must do that in our daily lives.

Going on now to another phase of self-reliant enterprise, which is an illustration of initiative. Take the pioneers. Pioneers on all walks of life - they had to have initiative, otherwise they wouldn't be pioneers. It's a difficult course. As the Master used to say about Self-Realization, he said, —Pioneers have a hard time.“ I'll say they do! If you had known what the Master went through in the early days, and those who struggled along with him, you'd realize it takes these three cardinal requirements of truth, faith, and action to push it forward. So any self-reliant enterprise means an expression of initiative, as establishing of Self-Realization Fellowship. And then we take other instances like the settling of America. Those people felt the truth within them. They felt the divine law within them, that God was within them and they as children of God should have the freedom of religion and all other things for which they came to America. They felt those three necessities for initiative, and they had the faith, did they not?

As you read about their episode, what they went through the first winter - why? Because they had the faith, and of course, they put it into action. That's why they came here, and that's why they stayed instead of returning when things did not turn out as they'd wished they would. And so, remember self-reliant enterprise is an expression of great initiative as illustrated by pioneers and early settlers. Then we have scientists. Scientists use initiative all the time furrowing out, working out new methods to find out eternal truths; and they, too, are guided by the three cardinal necessities for initiative. Scientists try the new; they're not satisfied with the rut. They try something new, and they use their initiative to do that.

In medicine - we cannot help but thinking about these many teams of medical men who work in the laboratory - laboratory teams - where they find out these different things, incessantly using their initiative to find out these new things, such as insulin, antibiotics, and synthesized chemicals of which we read. Now, that just didn't happen. They used their initiative to find out these new things. And think of the surgeons - surgeons try these new radical operations. It takes lots of nerve. It takes initiative to do that.

But you say, —Well, wouldn't we be just as well off without that?“ No! Look how the life span has increased. Look at the conditions here - sanitary conditions, health conditions. Why? Because those

medical men, health officers, scientists took the initiative and were not satisfied with the rut. They got out of the rut, that mankind might be better off. And so we have there several illustrations of the courageous initiative of scientists or any self-reliant enterprise.

Now, going on to the next one - to get out of the rut. To get out of the rut it takes initiative, doesn't it? It's very easy to sit down and just be like your grandfather was, or your father, your forebears, and say, —It's good enough for them; it's good enough for me.“ That's no way! As I have said, what if all the scientists felt that way? What if all health officers felt that way and these laboratory teams felt that way - did nothing? We're much better off - there's no question about it! Especially when we consider the life span which is increased quite a few years. Why? Because they took initiative. And so they didn't stay in the rut - they got out of the rut. They got out of the rut by using their initiative, and so should we. It is not just because a hundred and fifty million Americans do it one way, satisfied. We're not satisfied! No! We want to get out of that rut. We want to use our initiative and be better!

And so, what is the rut? Well, the rut is to be born, grow up, get married, and have a few children, if you're lucky, have some grandchildren, and then die. Well, that's no condition to be in for children of God! How about the freedom of our souls? How about the omniscience of God, which is in each and every one of us! Are we using our initiative to develop that and get out of the rut? No. We must do that. We must not be satisfied, as Master used to say, with breakfast, lunch and dinner, and go to the movies, and into bed, sleep, get up, fight, and fume, live - that rut is nothing. That isn't what we should be. We should be children of God knowing His omniscience within us, and making it our own. So, we have to get out of the rut. How do we get out of the rut? That's the thing. You have to use your initiative to get out of the rut. You examine yourself and see - see if you are acting from independent action. See if you are acting from the soul consciousness within you, or see if you are acting from the impulses of environment, habit, and latent impulses. If you are, you are simply an automaton. You are not using your initiative as a child of God to get out of the rut into the realm of freedom of your soul and the omniscience of God's presence which is in you, and which is you, covered up by habit, environment, and latent impulses. While you are doing that? You can easily find out if you are using your initiative or if you are being an automaton acting in the easiest way following the rut. Now let us get out of the rut if we want to develop our initiative.

And then, finally, our last point is: initiative means - and this is very important - initiative means the ability of independent action - the ability of independent action, that is, not automatic action. But to develop the initiative to do independent action in religion is most important, because religion is that which ties us to God. And if we follow religion - right religion, the universality of religion - we get out of the rut into the freedom of the soul. And so this point of initiative, which means to use independent action, different action, action guided not from environment, latent impulses, and habit, but from the soul consciousness within. That's independent action, and in the realm of religion that is very important

that we use our initiative to get out of the rut of ordinary, orthodox religion - ordinary orthodox religion where we follow name and form, into the universality of religion, which is the presence of God within each and everyone of us, whether we be Baptists, Methodists, Protestants, Catholics, Jews, or what - that's the important thing about this lecture on initiative, is to use your independent action - use the initiative of independent action to rise above the outward form of religion and know the universality of God within you.

And the universality of religion is the presence of God within you - the conscious presence of God within you. Are you using your initiative to contact that? And what is that conscious presence of God? The Word, the Holy Vibration of which I speak many times, and you all know. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God." Are you using your initiative to contact God? Are you using your independent action to contact God, or are you going along daily with a little meditation, just a mediocre amount? Are you using your initiative to make God real to you, to make Him a more vital part of your life? Now if you want to develop initiative to the greatest extent - use it! Use independent action to contact the presence of God within you as the only reality of existence.

Are you doing that? Remember, He is in us as the Word, the Holy Vibration. The Comforter which Jesus spoke is the Holy Ghost within us. Are you using that?

I broke away from Methodism because I felt within me an urge to know the truth. As I have said, one of the cardinal things necessary to use my initiative was the impetus of truth which pushed me on to get out of that orthodox religion. I have nothing against it - it's good. But I wasn't satisfied because something in me was pushing me to get out of it and find the truth. If the truth had been in Methodism, I mean the realization of truth I should say - the truth is in all religions - if the realization of it had been in Methodism I'd have followed it. I couldn't find it. I used my initiative, and through independent action I began to search to find out the universality of religion, or the presence of God in me, which as Sri Yukteswarji says, is in everyone. And as you see the light of God at this point (between the eyebrows) whether you are Protestant, Catholic, or Jew-- whatever you are it's the light, isn't it? And it's in everyone. It's not in just the Methodist, or the Baptists, thank God, or the Catholics, or anybody. It's there for everybody. It's in everybody, it's universal. Are you using your initiative to find that? That's why using initiative to find God within you is the greatest point this morning. Do that!

And so, that urge pushed me on - the urge of truth. That's why that's one of the cardinal necessities of initiative, is to follow truth. Truth must be the impetus. The truth that I felt the presence of God in me and couldn't find it is what pushed me on to use my initiative, and which pushed you all on to join Self-Realization Fellowship. Now with that, God must have listened, I guess, and He sent and I found the Master. I went to him, and I said, —Sir, I'm hunting for these things. It says in the Bible, "If thine eye be single, thy body will be filled with light." I couldn't find that." He said, —Can the blind lead the blind?" -

Jesus' words - he spoke the truth. Can the blind lead the blind? They both fall into the same ditch. Well, I said, —I'm in the ditch, sir, and get me out!" He says, —Keep quiet just a moment." Then I pointed out one or two other things, and I said, —I've hunted, I've searched, I can't seem to find it." And he gave me the reason, and then he gave me the proof! - The proof that God is universally present in me as a great light, which he showed me, and the light of the thousand-ray lotus which he showed me. And he satisfied me. But would he have satisfied me if I hadn't used initiative to use independent action and find him or to search out? No! I'd been an old Methodist since. That's all right! I'm telling you I wasn't satisfied. You can stay and be a Methodist if you want. But we have freedom of the soul to use our initiative to find out truth, and that's what I did.

And so, I have found that the Master's words came true - he showed me in response to my initiative. And then I had to use initiative to make those things my own. It's all right to see things - it's all right to see the vision of God, and so forth - but, you have to make it your own through initiative, to keep going every day, every day more and more merging in the presence of God! If you do that - if you follow these three necessities of which I have spoken: truth must be the impetus, faith in God, and action - not just sitting down every day doing five minutes of meditation. That won't do it! You've got give some action to God. If you do that, you will without question of a doubt realize the universality of religion as the great light of God in you - as His Holy Vibration, His Word. Having that, you will be so happy that you used your initiative. What did Jesus say? Jesus said, —Knock and it shall be opened unto you." He should have said, —Knock hard!" —Hard" is the initiative, don't you see? Knock! Knock with initiative and the door will be opened unto you. And so I knocked as hard as I could, and through the grace of God, the Master the door was opened, and I found the truth which underlies all initiative. And in closing, I would like to read just from one of the Master's letters what I call —Recipe for Initiative." Listen carefully. It's better than all the words I can give you. And so he says about initiative: —Have faith. Have more faith. Complain not. Bite more than you can in His name and chew it!" Are you doing that? Are you coming home dead tired? Are you sitting up in bed in spite of that and chewing it - finding God? Bite more than you can in His name, then chew it. Try more than you can. Imagine it- and then do it! That's initiative, isn't it? That's real initiative.

Finally, —Last of all, remember, now is the time or never!" We say we sit down at night, we say, —Well, I'm kind of tired tonight. I'll start tomorrow." Now is the time! Right now! —Last of all, remember, now is the time or never! Meditate deeply at night. Throw yourself at the feet of God." Isn't that wonderful? Don't you think if you do that you'll have initiative? Throw yourself at the feet of God. —Steady coaxing is necessary, sincere heart-call to make Him speak." You've got to have initiative to make God speak. Just wishing won't do it. You've got to use your initiative and feel Him in your heart. —Steady coaxing is necessary, sincere heart call to make Him speak. Forget this dream of life!" Imagine this life - we think so much of it. I do this today, and tomorrow I do that, and the next day I do that. What is it? - all gone after a while. So he says, —Forget this dream of life. Don't wait! Pray unceasingly for illumination and God's love." That's the guidance, see? —Pray unceasingly for illumination and God's love. Lose not a minute."

Don't be fed up with waiting and hopes of this and that. I hope this will happen. Do it now! Use your initiative! So the Master says, —Don't wait! Pray unceasingly for illumination and God's love. Lose not a minute! Don't be fed up with waiting, hopes of this and that. Eat God now!" Use your initiative now. Eat God now! —Nourish yourself on Eternity!" Meditate just a moment, please.

Heavenly Father, we have waited long enough; we have hoped long enough. Father, help us to use our initiative to make Thee, Thy presence, dynamic to our consciousness. In having Thee, we will have all things! Om, peace, Amen.