

You Can Change Your Personality

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San Diego, 7-28-57

It's those souls which reflect the Master's spirit that keeps true Self-Realization alive, nothing else. Words are empty. But it's the spirit that he inculcated in the hearts of those who really follow. That's true Self-Realization.

Now our subject this morning, "You Can Change Your Personality." You can change your personality. People radiate what they are. Realize that. People radiate what they are. Homes radiate what goes on in that home. Communities radiate their personality, so to speak, of that community, and saints radiate what they really are. So let us understand that. If you want to change your personality, you've got to change from what you are to what you should be.

I know coming across from Boston several years ago, we came through Texas, this was before going to Milwaukee, George¹. We came through Texas, and we both noticed the friendliness of the people. It was most wonderful. We felt good there. So then we went on, and finally we came into California, to a place, I think they call it Las Vegas. Well, about three in the morning we both couldn't sleep, and we got up, and got out of there. Later I found out what it was. So communities and places have their personality, and their consciousness.

I remember as a boy I used to go to see another young man, who I . . . my playmate, and the minute I opened the door there was bedlam. The children were fighting, and the parents were fighting, and the parents and the children were fighting all together, and what a personality came from that household. And other places, other homes I went to, it was calmness and peace. And so, realize that we radiate what we are.

And when you come into the presence of saints, or their teaching, you will feel what they are. Why? Because they radiate Christ Consciousness. And so, know that, if you were going to change your personality, you must change, common sense tells us we must change, from what we are, to what we should be in the eyes of God.

Now there are two kinds of personality change. One comes from following outward means. That is . . . by . . . it is produced by cultivating outward powers. Now this, this change, comes and changes your personality so that you, instead of being what you are, are what you should be. But the point I want to emphasize is this. That this personality, the first change, is due to secular things, ordinary things, and the change comes by following ego consciousness. This is the important thing. The personality changes, and comes, and is built around secular things, or outward things of ego consciousness. Now those things, those changes are produced by these outward means. It is necessary to use

¹ George Gay, a friend of Oliver Black and Robert Raymer. Doctor respected his spirituality. He came out around Convocation time.

and know these things, because we have to change gradually, sometimes from the lower standard to the higher.

Now these outward things, which produce the change are, for instance, kindness and friendliness. You know, that unless you are kind to people, you will not have friends. You can sense, and so can I sense, the person with the kind personality – considerate. You feel it, because they radiate what they are. And they have consideration for you. Now, if you want to change your personality from what it is, if it's not that, remember those things. That kindness is very important to change your personality. People notice it. People realize it.

Another important thing is, you must follow the golden rule. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Not the modified golden rule of nowadays – do others before they do you – not that one. The *real* golden rule. You must do that. That's the modified version.

And another thing, you must be very sincere with people. I noticed the Master, who knew before the person got their head around the door, he knew all about them, and what they wanted, and could've answer them, but he listened patiently. Because the soul knows, if you're not patient, listening patiently to others. So you have to put up with it, so to speak. That is, if you know more than they do, through the grace of God, that will help you as well as helping them.

And finally, in the ordinary ways of changing a personality, you must be efficient, and you must be willing, and you must be dependable. Let us start right with these down to earth things. If you're not. . .who likes a person who isn't efficient? You tell them to do something, and it's done in a haphazard way. No one likes that. And you ask a person to do something, and they grudgingly do it. You don't like them. That personality doesn't appeal to you. But the person that is willing, willing, even though they do not do it perhaps as good as another person, as well as another person, you feel that personality, the willingness.

And finally, as I have said, be dependable. Be dependable. If you say to a person, "Will you do this?" "Oh, yes, I'll do that," and they never think of it again. That will not help your personality. You must change that. As my father used to say to me, "I don't care so much about contracts. . ." I know here in California you have to have contracts all the time. But, he said, "I don't care about contracts. I'd rather know the man with whom I'm dealing, because then I know his word is his bond." It is those things that change, give us the change of our personality. These are the outward means. Let us understand that.

Now, secondly, a personality, the second kind of a personality is that in which the change is produced by these outward means plus, plus, the spiritual effort. And that personality has to do with things of Spirit, of eternal things. And that personality is inspired, not by ego consciousness, but by soul consciousness. You see the difference? You can change your personality two important ways. By following the outward means, wherein the ego

consciousness gives you the inspiration, and the ways of change, the means of change are through sensation, mind, and intellect – you will change, that change is commendable – but, the other way, the other way is far better. For the other way, you no longer use those methods, but your inspiration comes, to put it plainly, from God. That will change you more than anything. If you feel the presence of God, if you give spiritual effort of discipline, the ways of Self-Realization Fellowship, then your change is inspired by the presence of God within you, God contact, God communion. If you have that, that will change you as nothing else will change you. Remember the second way of change, which is so wonderful.

Now changing your personality, if you use spiritual effort, gives you a truly dynamic personality – a truly dynamic personality. We must remember that. Because God contact, God communion, through following the techniques, which the Master has left for us, will without doubt, not only change us, but will give us a truly dynamic personality – a personality different from the ordinary run of personality as we know it. Because it is based on what? Yes. Spiritual effort, I said that. But it's based on something that *comes* from Spiritual effort. What is it? God contact. God communion. And, if you have that, you will manifest two things especially.

You will first manifest, as a child of God, you will manifest as He wants you to manifest. Not doing your will, but doing His Will. And manifesting as His true child, a true child of God, you will manifest His characteristic. The characteristics of His Omnipresence of His Omniscience. You will manifest His Ever-Attentiveness. You will know, as God knows, to a certain degree, what you should do, and what is coming for you to do. What to avoid, and what not to avoid, because God's Omniscience is Ever-Attentive. You will know the things you should do, because God's Omniscience is All-Knowing. And you also will exercise True Compassion, or God's Omniscience, His Compassion.

That's what we need perhaps more than anything else to give us a dynamic personality, is the compassion which Jesus exercised. When everybody turned against him, when they put him down, and walked on him, what did he say? "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." If you have that in your heart, if you have the Omniscience of God flowing through you, because you have contacted Him, and communed with Him, you likewise, and so can everyone who knows God, say that. When people use you in the wrong way, when they are mean, when they are disrespectful, when they are not what they should be, you can say only one thing. . . you cannot even get cross with them. . . you will say, knowing that God alone is the Doer, and that they are sleeping, you will have changed your personality so you, too, can say, "Father, it's alright, it's alright, forgive them." That's what we must be able to do. That's what we can do, if we know God is with us, and feel His Power and know it is His Consciousness that is in us, and that we are giving forth His Qualities of Compassion.

And so, we have the greatest examples in the saints and sages, as our Master used to do, just that, when they persecuted him. He who gave nothing but love to them. He had changed his personality so, by being one with God, and living one with God, being a man of God, that no matter what they did to him, what did he say, "I don't retaliate, I just wait

for them to change. I give them love, and I wait for them to change.” Now, he could not do that, you and I cannot do that, until we have changed our personality so that the presence of God is our inspiration, and His Power, and His Love flows through us, flow through us, then we can do as the Master did.

And so in conclusion, let us decide how we wish to change our personality. If we wish to change it, first as I have said, by following outward means of mind, intellect, sensation, receive our inspiration from ego consciousness – that’s commendable. We see that in good businessmen, leaders, and society, and community workers. Or do you want to change by receiving your inspiration from the Spirit within? From the presence of God within? If you do that, then you will be just like the flower, which gives so freely, and is a wonderful benediction to all those who perceive it as a symbol of God’s Omniscience, His giving freely without any thought of reward. Just to give for giving’s sake.

And so, we must decide. And I know how we all have decided to decide, and that is from now on to get that contact with God by following the techniques, which the Master has left, and his teachings. Follow that. Be one with that. Get the contact with God, and you will have the personality which you should have: a dynamic personality, inspired by the presence of God within you.

I’ll close by a word from the teachings of Kabir, that medieval saint, a wonderful saint. They all have the same characteristics, but this is most appropriate for this subject this morning, “You Can Change Your Personality.” “Through association with saints comes the remembrance of God. . .” Isn’t that wonderful? Through the association with saints, and their teachings, comes what they had – the presence of God – “comes the remembrance of God, and that hour is recorded to a man’s credit in his account with God.” When you give an hour to the Master’s teachings and the attainment of God contact, that’s all that counts. For he says, “. . .that hour is recorded to a man’s credit in his account with God. All the rest is as valueless as air.”

And so, associate with the Master. Associate with him by following his teachings, which he has left, and the remembrance of God will come. The remembrance of God, that you are one with God. That His Consciousness is your own consciousness, that will come, and that will change your personality.