

MEDITATIONS FROM SEPTEMBER 2016 SUNDAY BULLETINS

IT IS UP TO US

September 4, 2016

Rev. Janet Friedline

There are times when we are called upon to choose and decide, making determinations and choices that affect us in a particular way. Some of what we are asked to consider is minor, it really isn't all that important. We could choose either "this" or "that," and it wouldn't make much difference. Other decisions are not quite so simple. There are certain things that we call "major events." These decisions require a little more thought and consideration.

There are times when we feel inadequate, not comfortable with what we have been asked to do. We consult others, asking for advice and suggestions. Each has a different idea of what we should do. We seek clarification, but many times we find us in a state of confusion. Let us understand that we were not sent into this world to fend for ourselves. A favorite hymn tells us to "take it to the Lord in prayer." Go to that place of solitude and talk with God. Be still, listen and obey. This is the way, walk ye in it.

GOOD LUCK CHARM

September 11, 2016

Rev. Donna Gatewood

When bad things happen to good people they often say in their defense "If it weren't for bad luck I wouldn't have any luck at all." What these people don't realize is that there is no such thing as luck, either good or bad. There is only God, the Good. Those who believe in and rely on luck believe in a power separate and apart from God. A power that is both good and evil, right and wrong, rich or poor. This mistaken belief in two powers is what separates them from God and from all the riches He has given to all of His children.

A consciousness centered in duality relies on luck to get through life. And so it is that life's experience is good one day and bad the next. Up one day and down the next like a rollercoaster ride at an amusement park. A good life does not depend on a roll of the dice; it depends on God. In Truth there is only one Power and one Presence. This One is the Source of all that is, was and ever will be. This one is God, our Good. Put aside your mistaken beliefs in all that is outside of yourself and trust in God-- the Wisdom, Knowledge, Understanding and Love within your own being. This is where all Goodness lies.

"Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. He shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when the heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green. And shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

ANSWER WITHIN YOU

from Dial-a-Prayer, December 5, 1996

September 18, 2016

Dr. Al G. Salazar, Minister Emeritus

In quietness and in stillness there is a strength and a confidence that comes over us. Because of this surge of self-assurance we find ourselves moving in the direction we feared before. Whereas before there was confusion, now there is peace; whereas before there was weakness, now there is courage, and wisdom.

When the Master said that the answer to every problem is within us he meant what he said. The only peace we ever experience is the peace that reveals itself in us. And the only love we will ever feel does not come from the outer, but from within us. And it is in our willingness to turn within, that reveals to us that all things are possible when we live from within out.

Within you is the Kingdom of God. Take time to be still throughout the day, to enter your closet and shut the door, that the Imprisoned Splendor may escape as the health of your body and the harmony in your home.

For this understanding, O Most Gracious God, we give you thanks.

JUDGE NOT

September 25, 2016

Rev. Janet Friedline

Mankind has the ability to think and to reason. We observe and then we consider what we have observed. We contemplate and reflect, and in due time we come to certain conclusions. In our time of deliberation, we judge, naming things in a particular way. And that settles the issue for us. It doesn't matter if we have reasoned correctly or not, we accept our conclusions and there are no other considerations. In time, we may change our minds, beginning our work all over again, reasoning, judging and coming to conclusions.

The Bible tells us to judge not, according to appearance. And really, that is what happens when we do our work in the mental realm, thinking, reasoning and observing. We look at something, and we judge it according to how it appears to be. To find value, we must go beyond what the human eye can see. Righteous judgment reveals God is in this place regardless of what seems to be. God is the only presence, the only power. No need to judge – God simply is.