

Subject: Rich Toward God

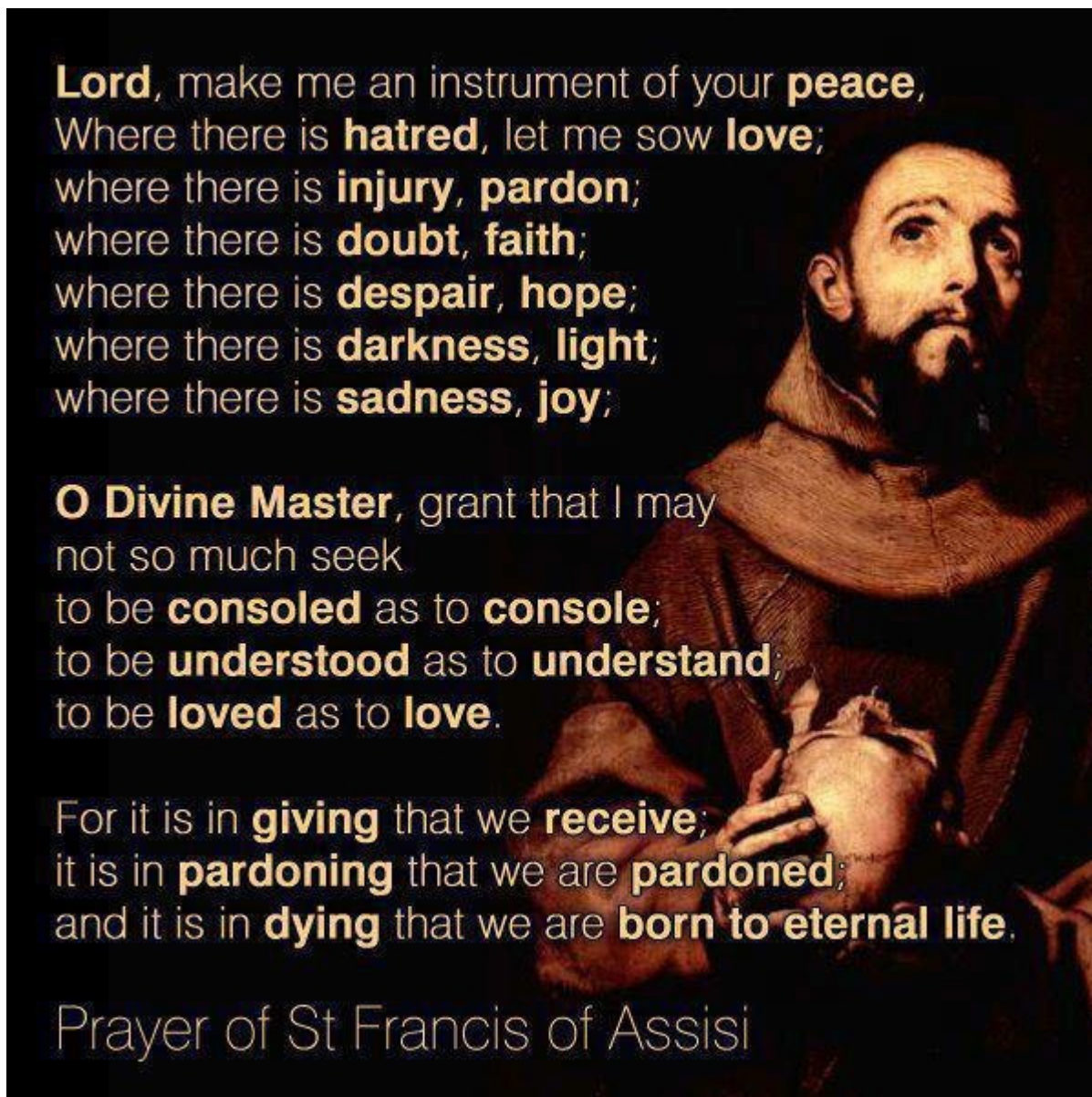
From: St. Francis Episcopal Church <vicar@stfrancisva.org>

Date: 8/1/2013 10:40 AM

To: Larry <lckiddjr@gmail.com>

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Lord, make me an instrument of your **peace**,
Where there is **hatred**, let me sow **love**;
where there is **injury, pardon**;
where there is **doubt, faith**;
where there is **despair, hope**;
where there is **darkness, light**;
where there is **sadness, joy**;

O Divine Master, grant that I may
not so much seek
to be **consoled** as to **console**;
to be **understood** as to **understand**;
to be **loved** as to **love**.

For it is in **giving** that we **receive**;
it is in **pardoning** that we are **pardoned**;
and it is in **dying** that we are **born to eternal life**.

Prayer of St Francis of Assisi

August 1, 2013

Rich Toward God

*" . . . rich toward God."
Luke 12:21*

Rich!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Our hearts will always be somewhere. Jesus talks about this often in the gospels (check out Luke 12:34). The desire of our hearts will be with what we treasure

the most. Jesus is continually calling us to make God our treasure, to have our hearts centered on God. One of the ways we know our hearts are centered on God is when we find ourselves believing what Jesus believes. That is a different kind of believing. Many people believe things about Jesus while their hearts are somewhere else. Believing what Jesus believes comes from being rich toward God. There are other ways to become more and more rich toward God: doing what Jesus does, loving what Jesus loves, or seeing what Jesus sees.

How Do You Do That?

My first suggestion is to realize that any thought you have of God came from God in the first place. Building on that realization we can ask God to give us the same belief system Jesus has, and then to have the ability to love what Jesus loves, and then the power to do what Jesus does. We can keep going like this with everything God brings to our minds. We become rich toward God by acting upon and growing in everything God gives us. Developing a habit of paying attention to what God is saying and then carrying out what God wants us to do about that will open up a lifestyle of becoming rich toward God. You might find the Prayer of St. Francis above a helpful way to start praying each morning.

Coming Attractions

Sunday, August 4

10:00am worship

11:30am People of the Way book study

Sunday, August 11

10:00am worship Doug Burgoyne guest preacher and celebrant

11:30am pot luck

Centerville Circle of Prayer

For the Sunset Grille that all of the employees would have rich personal growth both in their work and personal lives

Metro Richmond at Prayer

For the workplaces and businesses of Metropolitan Richmond: for safe, respectful work environments, healthy work ethics and attitudes, and sufficient salary and benefits for all workers. For owners and managers: for servant leadership, civic responsibility and ethical decision-making.

Save the Dates:

October 5 Blessing of the Animals

October 13 Celebration of a New Ministry

St. Francis raised \$700+ to send to Ministry of Hope in support of Atiah's new sewing business. We thank God for the opportunity to support the widow of a martyred pastor through the Ministry of Hope whose President of the Board of Directors is St. Francis' own Richard Walker.

Late Summer Reading:

Repenting of Religion by Gregory Boyd

After McDonaldization by John Drane

Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes by Kenneth Bailey

St. Francis' own Ian Leviness has written a book, Twilight of an Empire. It has just been published and you can purchase it through hiervalan.com

Grace and Peace,

John Maher

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