

Lost *in* Him

IN THE FIRST HARRY POTTER MOVIE the first-year student of Hogwarts finds a magical mirror that shows his deceased parents standing next to him, as if reflected in the glass. Later Harry is discovered, transfixed before the mirror, by Headmaster Albus Dumbledore, who explains to the young student that the mirror “shows us nothing more or less than the deepest and most desperate desires of our hearts. The happiest man on earth would look into the mirror and see only himself, exactly as he is.”

Thus if that fictitious mirror truly existed, the happiest, most spiritually alive saint would look into the mirror and see not himself, but...God. Not that he imagines himself God, but that his happiness, his desires, are realized only by his being lost in God.

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The happiest, most content believer is the one who realizes and embraces the sovereignty of God over his life—not just a God who is sovereign over ministry or life decisions, the go-to resource whenever an obstacle or fork in the road is encountered, but a God who is ruler over every aspect of life.

The world tells me that I will be the happiest once I make myself, as William Ernest Henley wrote, “the master of my fate...the captain of my soul.”

Bosh and nonsense. I know what I have to offer, and it is not nearly enough. I also know that when left to my own devices, my own judgments, my own natural perspectives, I will invariably miss the mark. There is a far superior, wiser master of my fate and captain of my soul than I. And my happiness, my ultimate fulfillment will be found only when my life is subsumed in His.

*I love my God, but with no love of mine,
For I have none to give;
I love thee, Lord; but all the love is Thine,
For by Thy life I live.
I am as nothing, and rejoice to be
Emptied, and lost, and swallowed up in Thee.*

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Christ Jesus did not just teach this, He lived it.

So Jesus said, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.”

John 8:28-29

Jesus, on earth, gave up His privileges as God to lose Himself in the good pleasure and will of His Father. And following His example of humility and reliance, we too are to lose ourselves in *our* heavenly Father. Our strength is to be His strength; our wisdom is to be His wisdom; our joy is to be His joy.

*Thou, Lord, alone, art all Thy children need,
And there is none beside;
From Thee the streams of blessedness proceed
In Thee the blest abide—
Fountain of life, and all-abounding grace,
Our source, our center, and our dwelling-place.*

Jeanne Marie De La Motte-Guyon



Do not listen to the voices of this world that proclaim man's self-sufficiency. Even they, in their hearts, know it is a lie. Man was not created for himself, but for God, and only in Him will man's true joy and fulfillment be found.

Delight yourself in the Lord;
And He will give you the desires of your heart.
Commit your way to the Lord,
Trust also in Him, and He will do it.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light
And your judgment as the noonday.

Psalms 37:4-6