

And when we find ourselves
in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love
and delight.

Joseph Brackett, *Simple Gifts*



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“Por la mañana hazme saber de tu amor, porque en ti he puesto mi confianza. Hazme saber cuál debe ser mi conducta, porque a ti dirijo mis anhelos.” —Salmo 143:8



Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Faith as Our Compass

by Robbin Brent

*And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.*

—Joseph Brackett, *Simple Gifts*

Faith and simplicity, our focus for this week, are both powerful resources for the journey to the valley of love and delight. Prominent Quaker Rufus Jones wrote, “Faith is an inward attitude based on first-hand experience. It is an active powerful thing, a deliberate confidence in the grace of God which makes a man joyous and intrepid.”

As we grow our confidence in the grace of God, at first we may have more questions than answers. How do we partner with God in order to journey to the “valley of love and delight”? How do we cultivate a practice of love and delight, which is how we will know we are in the place just right? Rufus gives us a hint: faith. The faith he describes makes us unafraid, and allows us to believe before we can see exactly where we are headed.

“Find ourselves,” from the line above, suggests we don’t get there on our own. I imagine God’s guiding us to the “place just right” to be like the delightful surprise we want to share with someone we love. We might cover their eyes and lead them joyfully to the surprise, and then tell them they can open their eyes. And we hope that our gift will fill them with delight and love. This could be what God is up to in our lives: gently inviting us toward that which will fill us with love and delight. Even though we may not be able to see where we’re going, we can trust that God is leading us every step of the way.

When we open our eyes, may we be filled with love and delight at the place just right that God has so lovingly prepared for us.

Making it Personal: Reflect on your own relationship with faith. What if anything has shifted for you recently? Have you noticed any distractions or resistance getting in the way of receiving these gifts? In what ways has the focus this Advent supported you in experiencing the gifts of simplicity?



Pray

Advent Day 25

Pray along with the Collect for Advent 4, found on page 212 in The Book of Common Prayer. Pick three or four of your beloveds to focus your prayers on today. Make sure to leave some silent space for God to offer you some wisdom about what they may need right now.

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