

What Do You Want

Marylin Huff, Unitarian Universalist Church of Delaware County, Media, PA 12/8/2009^[1]_[SEP]

Opening Words:

"This is the time of year when we ask - and are asked - what do you want? Shall it be another tie, a new pair of gloves, a book? We ask and we answer. We shop, we wrap, we ship. And the season usually comes and goes without us ever really answering the question: What do you want?"

Some of the things we want we might be afraid to ask for because we can't be sure what we would do if we got them. Many things we want we don't know enough to ask for. Most things we can't ask for because we know no one can give them to us."

David S. Blanchard
A Temporary State of Grace, 1997

Check-in

Focus/Topic: What Do You Want?

"Most people ask the question without any interest in really knowing, yet it can be a question for each of us to hold on to for a time in mind and heart. What do we want? Not, what would we like, but what do we want to give us a deeper connection with life and to help us give expression to our love? Not a long list of things, but a sense of clarity that illuminates what it is we are doing and why. Not outward signs of generosity, but an internal sense of caring that guides us to give in any season. Not just the reflex of always giving, but also the courage to truly answer some of those people who ask us, "What do you want?"

Dare to answer. Think of the things you want, and the things others close to you would want. Imagine the ways they might be given and received."

David S. Blanchard
A Temporary State of Grace, 1997

1. What do you want? Can anyone give it to you? Can you ask for it? How? Or, why not?
2. What does someone close to you want? Is it something you can give?
3. What if you don't want to give what someone else wants to receive?

Likes & Wishes

Closing Words:

"If you were asked to describe the ideal holiday season, what would you say?"

Perhaps you would include the company of loved ones, good food, fun and relaxation... maybe an inch or two of snow. Aiming higher in our holiday daydreams, we might even envision a feeling of tranquility and peace blanketing our homes, our community, the wide world.

Whatever you imagined, contrast it now with the typical mid-December scene at the mall, where countless holiday shoppers weave between traffic, oscillating between oppressed weariness and panic, as they search for non-existent parking spaces and that perfect gift that says “I had no earthly idea what to get you, but chose this particular item because, um, it is shiny and appears to cost what I could reasonably be expected to spend.”

The New American Dream

<http://www.newdream.org/holiday/index.php>

This session was prepared by Marilyn Huff, a member of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Delaware County, Media, PA (<http://www.uucdc.org/>)