



Welcome to Unity's Interactive Worship Service

Today's Topic: Spiritual Wholeness

Power Point notes available at:

www.unityofbakersfield.org

Spiritual Wholeness

Unity was founded by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore in 1889. Both of them were born into an era that saw thousands of people die from Cholera, Smallpox, Typhus, Yellow Fever, Influenza, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Tuberculosis (which Myrtle had). Many of these diseases were caused by bacteria and viruses. Although some advances had been made in how diseases were spread, little had been done to create vaccines and medications to combat these killers.

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Out of this climate of the late 1800's came religious organizations such as Christian Science, Divine Science, and Unity that used the power of prayer to tackle all our health issues.

Myrtle's own experience of being healed of her battle with TB expanded the Unity movement, along with Charles's determination to regenerate his withered leg. Her famous affirmation: "I am a child of God, and therefore, I do not inherit sickness."

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Prayer became the central point and activity for all healing in these religious organizations. Christian Science took it to a whole new level based on the inadequate medical procedures and remedies of their day. They created a doctrine that forbid any follower to see a doctor or take any medication for any health challenge. Jehovah Witness's forbid blood transfusions. Now, we all know prayer works and has a place in the healing process, but so does the medical profession.

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During his ministry, Jesus is said to have healed many people. Here are three examples:

"He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." –Mark 5:34; "Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well." – Luke 17:19; And Jesus said to him, Go on your way; your faith has made you well." – Mark 10:52

What's missing from his statements to these people?

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He never told them that their prayer life sucked. That it was never enough, good enough, strong enough! I have heard time and time again that when someone doesn't fit the mold of being "healed" that their prayer life and faith wasn't enough.

So what is the mold, ideal, or concept of one who needs to be healed? Who determines what that healing should look like, be like, manifest like?

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Today, I'm playing the devil's advocate as we look at what spiritual wholeness really means. I'm going to share part of an article written by a 3'5" firecracker of a minister that I met in 2002 during her L&O oral interviews. The Rev. Joy Wyler, J.D.



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Rev. Joy writes: "I was born with a rare form of dwarfism in the 1950's, in small-town Missouri. The doctors told my parents I was "too deformed to survive" and discouraged them from holding me to avoid getting too attached. I was isolated in the back of the nursery until I was 3 days old, when my daddy demanded to take his perfect girl home to love as long as he had her. I survived quite nicely.

You might think that attitudes would evolve throughout time, ...

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... yet 30 years later when I gave birth in a modern, metropolitan medical center, the doctors warned my family to prepare to see a 'very deformed baby.' Upon seeing her granddaughter, Sarah, my mother exclaimed, 'Oh, she's perfect! She looks just like her mom!' Deformity, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder."

During the two years I watched Joy develop as a Unity minister, I saw how loving oneself generates courage and determination in spite of any physical handicaps.

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The absolutists of New Thought have written and talked about how we must manifest wholeness in our lives. But, to who's ideal of wholeness?

Rev. Joy writes: "The ability of New Thought writers to embrace an evolving picture of diversity in our humanity and yet cling to a single image of manifesting wholeness as "able bodied" baffles me. We must put greater emphasis on how individuals see themselves rather than convince them their expression of physical wholeness is limited, based on our judgment and perception of their physical expression."

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And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither his man or his parents sinned, but this happened so that the works of God would be displayed in him. - John 9:2-3 Jesus saw through the physical handicap to the spiritual essence within the man.

Rev. Joy writes: "What if more than one picture of wholeness is manifesting in the physical realm?...What if we no longer associate descriptions of 'blind, deaf, lame' with people we perceive as failing to manifest spiritual wholeness and needing a specific healing?"

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What if our teaching examples began to embrace the language of changes in consciousness, the foundation of true healing into wholeness? Unity cofounder Charles Fillmore describes wholeness as the 'perfect unification and expression of [hu]man as Spirit, soul, body. True healing means to make whole.'"

Rev. Joy introduces a new language and concept called, Radical Wholeness. She writes: "Radical Wholeness is a idea that wholeness can present in a variety of physical expressions. The language of Radical Wholeness allows each of us to discern for..."

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... ourselves where our spiritual wholeness might seek greater expression. This concept accommodates the diversity of human expression without judging any as superior. When we speak about spiritual wholeness, we must put down the 'perfect' Barbie-doll examples flouted by society and instead lift up the true image of divine wholeness within each of us."

The concept of radical wholeness challenges the old paradigm belief that people born with health challenges or a deformity have a karmic (sin) debt to pay off. Jesus proved this to be a false belief.

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This new concept allows each one of us to discern what is true for us as we seek to use our health challenges as a way to allow our spiritual wholeness to seek greater expression in our lives. Here is a sample of people who have done just that:

Helen Keller; Stephen Hawking; Michael J. Fox; Ludwig van Beethoven; Franklin D. Roosevelt; and Christopher Reeve; just to name a few.

Stay true to your spiritual self, love, praise, and bless your mind and body no matter what the manifestation.

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There's a lot of talk and misinformation about vaccines. However, it's not a new issue. In 1802...

