

## Nip It In The Bud



To nip something in the bud:

*To suppress or destroy something at an early stage. curtail, cut short, strangle at birth, check, cut off, thwart, stop, halt, arrest.*

I was pondering on the words from the Lord's prayer - 'And lead us not into temptation. But deliver us from evil.

In my thoughts, I was likening temptation to the stages of growth of a dandelion as shown in the image above;

It begins with a bud, it develops into a full blown bloom, and then it disperses its seeds everywhere. Isn't this how temptation works? Isn't this how fear gets a foothold (bud) and if left to develop can grow into a full blown problem, so much so that when the problem is discussed the seeds can be even transmitted to others and then they take on the worries and concerns also. No wonder man is so fearful and in such a mess. Yet, how would temptation triumph, were it nipped in the bud? "Easier said than done", I hear you say. Is it? Fear obviously has different levels and strengths, from minor concerns, to worries and to full blown terror. But what ever the level of fear, they all have their root in the same place and that root is based on a huge error. Mainly a false perception we have of ourselves. More of that later.

Jesus gave us many words of wisdom regarding the whole matter of fear and temptation; let's look at some of them.

The first one:

"Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein". Mar 10:15, LUK 18:17

When he says little child he means a toddler, three or four years old. They haven't lived long enough yet to take on the cares of the world and the accompanying fears. They are humble, they simply love and trust without having to try. They do not worry, they are not anxious, they are unable to worry where their next meal is coming from or fear how the mortgage is going to be paid if Daddy gets made redundant from his job; and we have to become like this little child? Wow, tall order isn't it! Aren't we to be responsible adults? How could we possibly become like one of these little ones? Could it be that if we were to become so, could we re-enter the garden, that we seemed to have lost sight of? Or as Jesus puts it here, if we don't become as a little child, "we shall not enter the Kingdom of God".

The second one:

The way towards becoming like the little child seems to be encompassed in the statement Jesus made when he said, "Deny self, pick up your cross and follow me". Mat 16:24 Mar 8:34 Luk 9:23

Deny self of course does not mean deny yourself things, you are not tempted to eat a cream cake, though you may be tempted that it may cause you to put on weight (concern). You are not tempted to smoke a cigarette, though you may be tempted to be concerned (fearful) of the damage it may do to

your health. You are not tempted to drink a few glasses of whiskey, but you may be tempted to be concerned or anxious as to what it may be doing to your liver, or that it may lead you into alcoholism if you continue on that path, (fear). All these things have their root in fear. So no; Jesus means deny the existence of a self, period. Or rather deny the very existence of the self that you have believed yourself to have been all these years. For as mentioned earlier, to believe in this self is error. It is a false belief that was formed back in the garden, when man believed he had become separate from his source. From the Substance of all. This self is not truth it is illusion. This is why Jesus was so firm on his word that , 'of himself he could do nothing', for he knew that in truth there was no separate self that could do anything, and that's why he said, "believe you not that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. We are ONE, there is no separate me to do anything, therefore what I do, do and what I do say, has to be the Father working in me, through me, as me". There is a Self but not this false self, this lie, this erroneous belief in a human, mortal, material corporeal self. This false self is the one Jesus speaks of when he says, " he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it" Mat 10:39, or ""Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it". Meaning whoever seeks to hold on to this illusion of a self separate from God will lose it. How can he keep it when it exists in belief only and has no substance and is not the truth. But whoever loses this false self will find his True Self. The I AM.

Knowing this great truth, we are getting closer to understanding how we can fear not, and how we can nip temptation in the bud. Who is being tempted? A non existent self? How can you tempt an illusory self? And God himself the I AM cannot be tempted. There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out all fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. John 4:18. Again who can be tormented? There is no self to be tormented. Of course there will be torment as long as the false self is believed to be the real self, (which it isn't), but it's the only self we have known all these years, so when we hear the constant chatter of the egoic mind, we think that is us, but it isn't, for we have the mind of Christ. We only have one mind and that is God's mind. How can a non existent self have a mind? Of course again, it can seem as though it has, as long as the lie of separation is upheld. Now in the light of this let's look again at Jesus words, "Deny self, pick up your cross and follow me". So, the false illusory self is to be denied. To pick up your cross means to embrace and totally accept the moment, what ever it may contain and take no thought. Any temptation to be drawn away from your true self; nip it in the bud, for Jesus also says, " Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison". Mat 5:25, He also says, "But I say unto you, that ye resist not evil" You know that Christ is your true, real and only self, and he is totally capable of living his life, so you are in a position to, "Be careful for nothing". Phl 4:6 and "Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day *is* the evil thereof". Mat 6:34. So if the egoic mind tries to get you listening and concerned about the cares of the world, Nip it in the bud.

I should say here that the Truth IS the Truth, whether it feels or appears to be or not, that's why Jesus advises us to " Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment". John 7:24 and we're told to "Abstain from all appearance of evil". 1Th 5:22.

If we do fall for temptation and the cares of this world cause us to take thought (the dandelion bud), and we continue in the temptation till it gets hugely blown up (the dandelion bloom), and we even open our mouths and waggle the ships rudder (tongue), passing our fears and worries onto others (the dandelion seeds), then we pray, "But deliver us from evil". That's why it says But and not And deliver us etc, for we have been tempted, fallen for it and have stepped out of our oneness (or it seems we have, for we could never be separate from God and we never ever were, only in false belief). So we need to be delivered from the dualistic, separated egoic self we *seem* to have become again. So much better to nip it in the bud in the first place, so we don't have to go through the process where the adversary delivers

us to the judge and we finally end up in jail, as Jesus says. But, it is a learning curve and we can only become more practiced as we apply the truth daily and die daily to the lie of a separated individual self. But, practice makes perfect doesn't it? Or as St, Paul says, "till Christ be fully formed in you", where that perfect love and trust, (which is who he is), delivers us from all the cares of the world, in whatever form they may come, and they are legion, but Jesus knew about the cares of the world and he said, " The prince of this world, (the liar and murderer of the truth), hath nothing in me". So, when temptation comes, turn inward to your true, real Self and, Nip temptation In The Bud.