HOW TO STAY POSITIVE AND FIND OUR WAY TO PEACE

50 % OF BEING A PEACEFUL PERSON IS LEARNING <u>SELF CONTROL</u> IN THE MIDST OF STRESS AT HOME AND IN THE WORKPLACE. THE OTHER 50 % IS LEARNING TO <u>RELEASE</u> THE FEAR AND WORRY CAUSED WHEN OUR EMOTIONAL BUTTONS HAVE BEEN PUSHED BY EVENTS OR RELATIONSHIPS IN OUR LIVES. WHEN FEAR AND WORRY ASSAIL US, THE FOLLOWING PROCESS CAN BE USED TO RELEASE OUR TENSION, TO RETURN BACK TO A STATE OF TOTAL PEACE.

(It is recommended that you do this process out loud, where no one will hear you)

<u>Step 1</u>: Ask ... On a 0-10 scale, "if 0 = total peace, like the peace of a little cartoon angel in heaven, sleeping on a cloud in total bliss (pause and visualize her), in sharp contrast how 'un-peaceful' do I feel when I open up to the pressures and effects of all that I'm dealing with, past, present, and to come?"

Then rate on a 0-10 scale how un-peaceful you feel = X, opening up and expanding your sensitivity to allow a full awareness of <u>all</u> that's upsetting you in life, now and in your imagined future.

Step 2: Put this feeling into a simple sentence of the following structure, "I don't want to feel a 'X' un-peaceful", such as for example, "I don't want to feel a '6' un-peaceful." Repeat this sentence over and over again ...

"I don't want to feel a 'X' un-peaceful" ... "I don't want to feel a 'X' un-peaceful"

Stay present to all that is bothering you, remaining vulnerable and fully <u>connected</u> with your feelings, like a child would be. Repeat this sentence over and over, until either at least 60-90 seconds pass, or the feeling fully subsides.

<u>Return to Step 1</u>: Go back and read aloud Step 1 and re-rate how you feel. You should notice the number steadily decreasing which will give you feedback on how effectively you are releasing fear and worries. Continue with these steps until you're happy with how much your emotional upset has subsided, or until you return to a feeling of total peace.

... It may be helpful to remember the adage ...

"What I am willing to face will erase ...

What I try to avoid just keeps me annoyed!"

A Spiritual Solution

When we finally breakthrough to feeling total peace, we will notice that nothing will have changed in our outer life, but everything will have changed in our inner life—which is the true source of our inner peace. Most people are seeking a worldly solution to their problems: they try pursuing this or that, attempt to acquire more things, or they try to run away from (or avoid) whatever pushes their buttons and causes them some degree of pain or upset. This process offers, instead, a "spiritual" solution to our difficulties in life. By releasing our inner emotional pain, our outer world completely changes, and we can experience heaven-on-earth right here and now.

So How Can We Stay Peaceful?

We know life is likely to present us with challenges every day, so how can we stay peaceful in the midst of challenges which keep coming our way?

We take showers or baths every day to keep our bodies clean – even though we will surely get dirty again. We brush our teeth every day – even though they will probably be in need of a brushing after our next meal. Some of us do physical exercise regularly, despite so many forces – including ageing and even gravity itself -- which are constantly acting against us.

But what do we do for our mental peace? Regularly doing something to "clean" or clear the mind is important, in the face of so many forces in our day to day lives acting to disturb it.

This is something we have forgotten, because no one has to teach children how to regularly "clean" their minds in the face of whatever is disturbing them. They innately know how to release their daily stress by crying, throwing a tantrum, or expressing their upset feelings – after which, they quickly return to being light-hearted, free, and joyful again.

We can definitely feel that way again as adults, finding our way back to regaining our youthful light-heartedness and joy if we take a few minutes time daily to do clearing practices.

