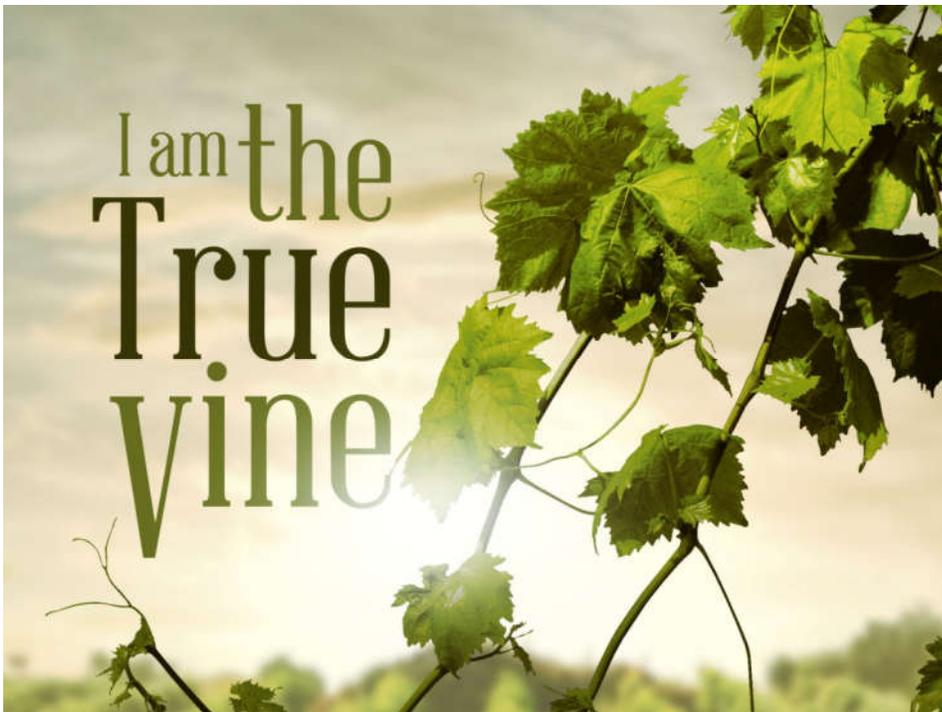




OSL in CANADA

# The Canadian Healer

Fall 2017



- Happiness..... 2
- Near Death Experiences..... 3
- Cheap Grace..... 4
- Wanted..... 5
- On The Calendar..... 7
- Achieving Usefulness..... 8

## Jesus, the True Vine

*15 “I am the true grapevine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch of mine that doesn’t produce fruit, and he prunes the branches that do bear fruit so they will produce even more. <sup>3</sup> You have already been pruned and purified by the message I have given you. <sup>4</sup> Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me.*

*<sup>5</sup> “Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Anyone who does not remain in me is thrown away like a useless branch and withers. Such branches are gathered into a pile to be burned. <sup>7</sup> But if you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted! <sup>8</sup> When you produce much fruit, you are my true disciples. This brings great glory to my Father. (John 15: 1-8 NIV)*

# THOUGHTS: THE BASIS FOR HAPPINESS

Colin C M Campbell, PhD

In the last few weeks, I have met many people who have abandoned the hope of ever being happy. One woman demanded angrily, "How many times do my dreams have to be broken?"

I assure them that the Lord is present everywhere and that nothing happens without his permission. If they pray I ask them what they pray for. Generally, they pray that God gives them what they imagine that he would want for them; that is, if he was willing and able to do it.

When their prayers are not answered, their minds become trapped in a downward spiral of tormenting thoughts. Since Jesus promised that his followers would have radiant thoughts, it is clear that something has gone wrong. Diagnosing the problem means that we take a long step back.

Although the desire for happiness is built into our DNA, we are not born happy. So, it is natural to assume that we must find it by our own effort.

Sadly, the goals of this effort are largely determined by society and our society imposes a membership fee. Universities require that we pass exams; employers insist that we have marketable skills; men require that their women be attractive and so on. Losers are those who are unable to pay the membership fee.

Despite the fact that such a system is repugnant to God, we are socially conditioned to embrace it. We all know people who are able to pay the entrance fee. They are usually attractive, fun to be with, charming,

trustworthy, caring parents and honourable colleagues. Can they really be God's enemies?

In as much as their group is self-selecting, they are. Also, they walk a tightrope. As long as they can satisfy their dreams by continuing to pay the membership fee, they imagine that God is on their side. If circumstances or their lack of ability causes the dream to die, they have a crisis of faith.

Someone once said, "If you want to make God smile, tell him your dreams." If we wish to live with happiness, we must guard the Kingdom of God that Jesus promises us in our hearts. This Kingdom we are told is not one such as the world gives. But the mind is a great wanderer and social pressures will attack us in our thoughts. We must resist such attacks. However, we must resist by remaining calm.

If we are united with God and have a heart full of faith, then the power of God will work within us. If we have not yet cleansed ourselves of anger and anxiety, then the power of God will be blocked.

Thoughts are the power that drives our whole being. When we have the Holy Spirit in our hearts, then it is the power of God himself that acts in us and brings healing to others.

God is not in the business of blessing social conformity. He makes us new creations, so that we can build his Kingdom. And that Kingdom starts in our hearts with our thoughts



*Colin Campbell is a long time member of OSL, former President of The International Order of St Luke the Physician Board of Directors, and was elected the current member for Canada on that Board. Colin is also Interim Director of OSL Region 8 (Ontario). Dr Campbell is Convenor of the newly established OSL Hamilton Chapter. Colin is a secondary school teacher and may be contacted at [ccmcampbell@gmail.com](mailto:ccmcampbell@gmail.com)*

# The Gifts of Near-Death Experiences: You Don't Have to Die to Experience Your True Home

Rev Matt Linn with brother Dennis and his wife, Sheila

**N**ear-death experiences are common, similar within all faith traditions, and have been carefully studied and documented. Those who have not had them can "catch" their healing power simply by immersing themselves in accounts of NDEs. This presentation will focus on how all of us can integrate the loving and healing message of NDEs into our lives.

Dennis, Sheila & Matt Linn work together as a team, integrating physical, emotional and spiritual wholeness, previously as hospital chaplains and therapists and currently in leading retreats and spiritual companionship. They have taught courses on processes for healing in over fifty countries and in many universities and hospitals, including a course to doctors accredited by the American Medical Association. They are the authors of twenty-two books, including Healing of Memories, Healing Life's Hurts, Healing the Eight Stages of Life, Good Goats, Sleeping with Bread, and Don't Forgive Too Soon, as well as two books for children and those who care for them. These books have sold over a million copies in English and have been translated into more than twenty languages. Their most recent book is Healing the Future: Personal Recovery from Societal Wounding. Dennis and Sheila live in Colorado with their son, John. Matt lives in a Jesuit community in Minnesota.

*"Our purpose is to support personal growth and the evolution of our planet by integrating spirituality, psychology and science in ways that empower all of us to heal personal and social wounds and discover our unique gifts*

*for carrying out the special purpose of our lives. Our ministry is committed to the nonviolent resolution of personal and social conflicts, care for the earth, gender and racial equality, economic justice, and respect for all faith traditions. Our roots are in Ignatian spirituality, which emphasizes finding the presence of the mystery we call God in all things."*

Members of the Linn Team are past keynote speakers and workshop leaders at international conferences of The International Order of St Luke the Physician.

**The January 2018 OSL Telephone Conference Call will feature Rev. Matt Linn, brother Dennis and his wife, Sheila, and will be a special hour-and-a-half presentation by the three speakers. The Call will begin at the usual time of 4:00 pm Eastern and end at 5:30**



## St Luke's Day

**St Luke's Day is celebrated every October 18<sup>th</sup>. A reminder to choose the closest Sunday to celebrate in your church... and include a healing service!**



## “CHEAP GRACE” AND “FUZZY THINKING”

Rev. Canon DAP Smith

*“It is much easier for me to imagine a praying murderer, a praying prostitute, than a vain person praying. Nothing is so at odds with prayer as vanity.” - Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

**A**s I see it, two of the chief problems in the Church today are our desire for “Cheap Grace”, and our “Fuzzy Thinking”.

“Cheap grace” is the term Bonhoeffer used to describe the kind of grace expected by German Christians in the 1930’s. These were people who, in the opinion of Bonhoeffer, were simply going through the motions of religion and yet were looking for the ongoing grace of God. Their attitude represented the kind of “fuzzy thinking” which is much like the fuzzy thinking that abounds among Christians, and even among most people, in North America today.

What I hear most emphasized in Christian circles these days is the necessity for peace and kindness, and gentleness. Now, who can argue with that? These are virtues which are included in St Paul’s list of the fruits of the Spirit. He says, “There is no law against such things.”<sup>1</sup> And yet this emphasis, most often, is neither focused on God nor upon the Spirit who is their Source. The focus is on ourselves. We are concerned about these things only because this is the way we want to be treated. The general intention in the Church today, it seems to me, is to make us all feel comfortable and entertained rather than to encourage us to worship and glorify Almighty God.

The Gospel is the “Good News” that proclaims that God reaches out to us to fulfill all our needs and that he shares with us his eternal glory. But at the same time it reminds us that we are involved in a covenant relationship with God. His part in this relationship is that he promises to save us and makes us his own. Our part is to respond to him with our loyalty and obedience.<sup>2</sup> But nowadays we do not hear very much about our side of this relationship, about our

obligations and responsibilities. We tend to ignore our Lord when he tells us, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves, and take up their cross, and follow me”.<sup>3</sup>

This summer I have found myself reading Bonhoeffer, both the book he published in 1937, *The Cost of Discipleship*, and about his life, *Bonhoeffer. Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*<sup>4</sup>. I was struck by what appeared to be the remarkable parallels between life here in Canada and life in Germany in the 1930’s.

Germany, after World War I, was a devastated land. For a time there was civil war. Several different factions, including the communists, were vying for power. The economy was in a turmoil; the German mark was worth practically nothing. The German people felt that the post-war peace process had brutally deprived them of their national dignity. Then Hitler, charismatic, capable, ruthless, came to power in 1933. He began to give back to the country its unity, prosperity and sense of well-being. The German people rejoiced in his leadership. There were Christians who believed that he had been sent by God to rebuild the German nation. And so there was the “shocking capitulation of the German Church to Hitler in the 1930’s”.<sup>5</sup>

Bonhoeffer was one Christian who saw clearly what German National Socialism was all about, and he had the courage to speak out against it. In his book, *The Cost of Discipleship*, published in 1937, he called on Christians to live out the implications of what it meant to be a follower of Christ. He himself followed these demands exactly. Just before the outbreak of war in 1939 he returned to Germany from his visit to the United States. He wrote, “I have no right to participate in the reconstruction of the Christian life in Germany after the war if I do not share the trials of this

time with my people”<sup>6</sup> After his return he was arrested, imprisoned, and in 1945 was hanged for his participation in the plot to assassinate Hitler. He had long agonized and prayed about what he must do before coming to the conclusion that he must work to get rid of this man. For him the cost of being Jesus’ disciple was martyrdom.

I do not see very much of the spirit of martyrdom in our Canadian Church today. Instead of the Church influencing our society to follow in the way of Justice and Truth, I see society leading the Church along the ways of human rights, personal comfort, and ease.

Recently a newspaper article told how a young Canadian chess player, participating in a tournament in England, was shocked and humiliated to be told to change out of striped shorts because he was not dressed according to the standards of the tournament. He resented being spoken to forcibly and being accused of “looking like a Gypsy”. It made me wonder if a Gypsy, upon reading the article, might be just as shocked and humiliated to be compared to this young Canadian! How we stand on our personal rights and dignity. In actual fact, as created and redeemed children of God, we have no rights at all, and our dignity resides only in the fact that God loves us and has made us his own.

We modern Christians have allowed this present world to influence our thinking to the point where we have forgotten our obligations to God. “Duty” and “obedience” are words that are rarely mentioned in the Church today. Instead, we expect God to love us and care for us simply because we exist. We tend to think of ourselves as the masters of our fate, and of God as a personal servant. We have forgotten that it is the other way around.

All this has profound implications for the Ministry of Healing in the Church. It raises the question, how do we approach Almighty God with our supplications and prayers for healing?

When we come before God we ought to come only in the spirit of humility and thanksgiving. We should come acknowledging what he has already done for us in creating us and making us his own through the redemptive work of our Lord, Jesus Christ. God in his love is so merciful.

When Jairus, the “ruler of the synagogue”, came to petition Jesus about his desperately sick daughter, he “fell at Jesus’ feet and begged him repeatedly” to come and lay his hands on her “so that she (might) be made well and live”<sup>7</sup>, and Jesus met him in his need. Jesus in his mercy meets us too so that we, his sheep, “might have life, and have it abundantly”.<sup>8</sup> This is what we humbly believe. This is our faith.

Bonhoeffer in his life and death exemplified this faith. After witnessing his death, the prison doctor reported, “In the almost fifty years I have worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God”.<sup>9</sup>

Notes:

1. Galatians 5: 22
2. Matthew 16: 24
3. Exodus 19: 5; Matthew 22: 26: 28
4. *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, SCM Press Ltd, 1959
5. *Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy* by Eric Mataxas, Thomas Nelson, 2010.  
*Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, Forward by Timothy J. Keller, p.xv
6. *The Cost of Discipleship*, Memoir by G. Leibholz, p.19
7. Mark 5: 22ff.
8. John 10: 10
9. *Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy*, photo op. p.465

*Although retired after many years as pastor, Canon DAP Smith still takes services when requested. He established an OSL Chapter in Perth, served as Director for OSL Region 8 for two 4-year terms, and was elected to the OSL North American Board of Directions. Rev. Smith and his wife, Margot, live in Perth, ON*



# OSL Canada Network



OSL Canada is committed to finding ways for us all to remain connected and encouraged. "The Network" looks and feels like Facebook, but is a private, social network for now more than 70 OSL Members and invited guests. **'Embers' cool and grow cold when removed from fire. Let's stay connected and encouraged! Membership is FREE**

This is your invitation to join at  
<http://oslcanadanetwork.ning.com/?xqj=0dYBiPD8YAKrYj>

## Wanted: Your Story of Healing

Would you consider sharing your healing to encourage others? The length of your article can be up to 2 pages in Arial or Times Roman 12 Font. Please include a photo and a short bio. Attach your document and photo in an email to [editor@oslCanada.org](mailto:editor@oslCanada.org)

If you do not have a photo or are not sure how to attach a document, simply write your story in an email and include your phone number so we can call if we have any questions. We'll do the rest including editing if needed and will return a proof for your approval.

# On The Calendar

[www.oslCanada.org/calendar.htm](http://www.oslCanada.org/calendar.htm)



## OSL Telephone Conference Calls Encouragement for Healing Ministry

Anointed teaching  
Healing Conversations  
Your Questions Answered

**Please Note: NEW CONFERENCE TELEPHONE NUMBER**  
**Dial: (605) 562-3140 and enter Code 742245**  
For more information and free long distance please visit  
<http://www.oslRegion8.org/online.htm>

**Oct 15**



Melody Stancil, MD  
**Suffering: A Christian  
Perspective**

**Nov 19**



Rev. Hugh Bromley  
Director, OSL Int'l  
**Healing From the Inside  
Out**

**Jan 21 (1.5 Hrs) 400 - 530 pm**



Rev Matt Linn with Dennis & Sheila Linn  
**The Gifts of Near-Death Experiences**

### OSL Members in Canada

Please take a moment to verify your website listing and make any changes at

[www.oslCanada.org/chapters.htm](http://www.oslCanada.org/chapters.htm)

# Achieving Usefulness

by Mike Flynn

This article is largely taken from the last chapter of a book I wrote entitled [How To Be Good Without Really Trying](#). I begin here with seven steps that need to be dealt with in order to achieve usefulness.

## Part 1

**F**irst, we've got to see the importance of obeying Jesus.

**S**econd, we've got to find out what His commands are.

**T**hird, we've got to do what He tells us.

**F**ourth, we've got to come to the end of our ability to obey him. This will be different for each of us.

**F**ifth, we've got to grab hold of His ability to obey in us.

**S**ixth, we've got to experiment with that collaboration, growing in our ability to let Him express himself through us.

**S**eventh, we've got to rejoice at the wonders He accomplishes through us.

Let me expand this, beginning with point four. We've got to come to the end of our ability to obey him. It takes Jesus helping us even at point one, two, and three. If He doesn't help us, we won't become aware of the importance of obeying Him and we won't find out what His commands are and we won't get it together to start actually obeying Him. But after we've obeyed Him for a while, our capacity for Him runs out and we can't seem to go forward with new obedience. This is an important crisis, for we will start receding or find a way to

appropriate His help and continue on.

Point four does come. It comes at different times and ages for each of us, but it does seem to come to all. Many of us will become somewhat aware that we're at a blockage or a pause in our growth in Christ. Often what we do is apply harder what has worked in the past. Or we regard it as spiritual warfare and press against it. Or we go on going on, because perseverance has helped in the past. All of these are reasonable courses of action.

But a new breakthrough still eludes us. We might even get ambushed by an old temptation and momentarily succumb to it. If so, we've learned to repent quick, claim forgiveness, and get back into the lap of Jesus. But that's just a stall. It hasn't gotten us into the new ... what? What should we call it? What is this thing that we're now aware we need but which still eludes us? We don't know. We're not sure what we need. Past answers don't seem to work now. We're edgy, off-center, still being useful to the Kingdom and still committed to its expansion of course, but something is ... not

exactly wrong, but something is missing.

Finally the Lord helps us. He was willing to help us all along, but we weren't yet receptive to it. Somehow, some way He tells us that it's not something we need but Someone. He Himself. But more of Him.

For me personally this has come several times, at successive levels. Back in the 1970's I discovered a book, ***They Found the Secret*** by V. Raymond Edman. In it, he tells the stories of twenty leaders who ran into point four and how the Lord and they resolved the crisis. For each of them, the answer was more Jesus. In particular I identified with two or three of these leaders, for their stories or their personalities or their situations were similar to mine. Hudson Taylor's statement helped me immensely:

*"The sweetest part, if one may speak of one part being sweeter than another, is the rest which full identification with Christ brings. I am no longer anxious about anything, as I realize this; for He, I know, is able to carry out His will, and His will is mine. It makes no matter where He places me, or how. That is rather for Him to consider than for me; for in the easiest positions He must give me His grace, and in the most difficult His grace is sufficient."<sup>1</sup>*

Edman quotes a contemporary of Taylor a few lines later: "He was an object lesson in quietness. He

*drew from the Bank of Heaven every farthing of his daily income-- 'My peace I give unto you.' Whatever did not agitate the Savior, or ruffle His spirit was not to agitate him."*

Ian Thomas's experience later in the book was my story. After struggling at point four for seven years, there was a breakthrough. Thomas writes as it was as though the Lord was saying:

***"You see, for seven years, with utmost sincerity, you have been trying to live for Me, on My behalf, the life that I have been waiting for seven years to live through you. I have been there the whole time. All the things you have been pleading for, all the things for which you have been asking, have been yours since the day seven years ago, at your request and invitation, I came into your heart at the Crusader boy's camp; but you see, although you have given mental consent to the truth that I have been in your heart, and have accepted it as a theory, you have lived totally ignoring the fact. You have been busy trying to do for Me all that only I can do through you Now supposing that I am your life and you begin to accept it as a fact, then I am your strength! You have been pleading and begging for that for seven years. I am your victory in every area of your life, if you want it!"<sup>2</sup>***

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<sup>1</sup> *ibid*, p. 21

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<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, p. 170

Those words were gold to me, and I took them to the bank. I have drawn from that bank many times over the years. Through them the Lord got me into stage five which quickly got me into stage six.

A funny pattern began to emerge after a decade or so: I was more useful but less capable. Another way to say it is that the Lord became more and more capable in me, through me.

A moment of revelation came one day through the words of Norman Grubb: *"The goal in life is not to be somebody but to contain Someone."* My testimony is that as I have sought to contain and give forth Jesus, He mobilizes the best of me and brings me along in the deal.

This is a clear example of losing one's life and gaining it, as Jesus exhorted. To stop trying to be somebody is to lose your life. **To start trying to contain Someone is to lose your life.** But He is so good and kind, that He sees to it that you experience richer and richer fullness for having made that decision.

One day I was in New Zealand leading a conference. The worship team sang a song that was new to me. One line of that song pierced my heart: "I need You more today than yesterday." Instantly I realized that on some unconscious level I had been expecting that as I grew in grace I would need the Lord less and less. This line nailed me. I repented instantly and leaped back childlike into the lap of my Boss, my Enabler, my Friend, my Jesus.

How do you do stage five? I don't know. I think He does it for us. But somehow we grab onto His ability to express more of Himself through us. I know that timing is crucial. One doesn't decide to come to the end of himself. You have to try and try until you exhaust your capabilities. Then, by grace, you realize that you've come to the end of yourself. That's when you can do stage five. MacDonald helps us see that the Lord has to wait until we're ready for more:

*"His children are not his real, true sons and daughters until they think like him, feel with him, judge as he judges, are at home with him, and without fear before him because he and they mean the same thing, love the same things, seek the same ends.*

*He is our father all the time, for he is true; but until we respond with the truth of children, he cannot let all the father out to us; there is no place for the dove of his tenderness to alight.... Because we are his children, we must become his sons and daughters. Nothing will satisfy him or do for us, but that we be one with our father!*

*When God can do what he will with a man, the man may do what he will with the world."<sup>3</sup>*

Thus, there are things that God can't say to me until I'm ready for them. There are challenges that would swamp me until I've grown to their level by having met easier challenges. There are changes in the heart that prevent my hearing certain words of Jesus until those

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<sup>3</sup> Unspoken Sermons, Series Two

changes occur. There are truths that don't make sense until their more foundational truths have been lived.

***Part 2 continues in the next issue of  
The Canadian Healer***

*Rev. Mike Flynn is director of Fresh Wind Ministries. He has authored several books on Christian healing, and is a popular leader for healing conferences. Mike has been Keynote speaker for the International Order of St the Physician national conference and many OSL regional conferences.*

*Rev Flynn is a frequent guest speaker on the OSL Telephone Conference Call series. His recorded teachings are available in the library at [www.oslRegion8.org/recordings.htm](http://www.oslRegion8.org/recordings.htm)*

*Mike may be available to lead your next healing event. For more information visit <http://freshwindministries.org/>*



***The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament showeth his handiwork.  
Psa 19:1 ASV***



***The Canadian Healer*** is published by OSL Canada  
Archived issues are available at <http://www.oslCanada.org/healer.htm> Editor: Keith Bird,  
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