

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

*“God” is a topic that has always made some people nervous. It was true when this paper was first written—June 8, 1979—and it is true today. Well then, can you imagine the reaction of those same people when someone actually carries on a conversation with God? “Crazy” comes to mind. In fact, to some, the concept of a lay person communing with God borders on heresy. Many of us have been taught that it’s OK to talk to God (i.e., it’s OK for God to hear each and every one of us), but that only a priest or prophet can hear Him. Kind of silly, isn’t it? ...to think that our voices are more important than God’s...and that God can’t talk to whomever He chooses. On the other hand, like the people in the following conversation, maybe we just don’t want to hear what’s being said. October 12, 2003.*

### Someone to Talk To

It’s amazing how talking with someone can ward off the doldrums. I was talking to a couple of friends about “depression” last week...and how I always felt like spending money when I was “down in the dumps.”

“I think there’s something spiritual involved in that,” I said, and my friends stared at me like “Oh?...sure...right... (What is this person? Some kind of nut?)

“Well,” I expounded (feeling a thesis coming on), “What is depression? Isn’t it an isolation of self?...from others...from happier thoughts? Isn’t it a feeling of being alone?...a separation?”

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

At which point one friend excused herself to “check” on her child who, she thought, “was being awfully quiet.”

“Maybe, it’s really a separation from God,” I mused, “After all, it is a kind of darkness,” and continued, undaunted (to the one whose child was on her lap), “What happens when you get further and further away from God? Don’t you get closer and closer to material things?...earthly things?...desiring them more and more?

*“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.”* [Matthew 6:24]

And my friend fidgeted a bit in her rocking chair...and bounced her baby a bit more fretfully on her shoulder.

“And aren’t earthly desires more in Satan’s realm?” I added with growing excitement; “After all, being *down in the dumps* does mean being in the middle of a bunch of garbage! Somehow, it all fits?” I exploded, and, then with rapidly cooling enthusiasm, noticed that my audience hadn’t captured the full spirit of this revelation.

“Of course, one has to first believe in God...” I added apologetically, “and in Satan...”

## THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

But then there was a bustling and a gathering up of things. “Oh...do you have to leave so soon?...Well, it’s been nice having you over...Do come again.” And, suddenly, the people were gone...the house echoing the sound of their hasty retreat.

I turned to pick up the coffee cups and wondered if, perhaps, I should have talked about something else...but, instead of getting depressed, a smirk crossed my face as I continued my conversation...

Well, Lord...maybe if I write it all down...maybe then it will make more sense...”

*(Written, June 8, 1979. Edited, November 4, 2012.)*