

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Growing in God's Image

Once upon a time, a soul of great character and compassion, traveled the world looking into the hearts of the people and having been moved by their great distress prayed,

“Oh God, I cannot stand the suffering and pain of these thy children. Please give me the power to take on their bodily suffering and heal them.”

And God answered, *“What you have asked is already so.”*

And whomsoever the master touched was healed of any infirmity, while the hurt and disease was transferred to the body of this noble soul.

After many years, the master's body became crippled and deformed, and those who had never been ill thought that this deformity was God's punishment for some wrong doing. They gave thanks to God that they were pure of body and spirit and shunned the “creature's” sinful ugliness.

But those who had suffered, or were now suffering, learned to look beyond outward appearances and into the heart; and when the master reached out a hand to touch them, they did not flinch and hide, but took the hand as if to comfort another sufferer, and they, themselves, were healed.

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One day, a child was brought to be healed, but when the master reached out a hand, the child moved away.

“Are you afraid of me?” asked the healer.

“No,” replied the child, but the little one had no words to explain the feeling that welled up inside of him. Therefore, the master looked into the child’s heart, and realized that the child had looked into the healer’s own soul...and had seen the pain there. The child, not wanting to add more pain, had not allowed himself to be healed, so the master prayed,

“Oh God, I cannot stand the suffering and pain of these thy children. Please give me the power to take on the suffering of their souls, so that I may heal them...and, Father, put my own soul at rest so that the little children will come to me.”

And God answered, *“What you have asked is already so.”*

[Gen. 1:26, Matt. 19:13]

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