



Seeing True to Break Through

Thoughts from Ron Chapman

July 2008

Greetings!

June's newsletter closed as follows: Why do results matter to you? ... Wherever it is you draw meaning for yourself, there is some end state that fuels your passions. What is that? Why does it matter to you?

A number of you wrote that the questions made you think long and hard, while a few admitted the approach was a little crazymaking. In fact, that's a good outcome. Self-inquiry can be a challenge, even when it is productive.

Given this, it might be useful to look at the results our lives produce through different eyes.

Recently a very good friend shared insights she had as a result of her spiritual studies. Specifically, she was examining the Christian gospels to gain insight into how Jesus might have seen things. She noted the words attributed to Jesus at various miracles always seemed to give no credence to the state being affected. For example, in the great scene of Lazarus brought back from the dead, Jesus did not say, "Lazarus, you're not dead anymore." Instead, his words were "Lazarus, come forth."

My friend's point was that either Jesus did not see the infirmity or problem, or he did not acknowledge it. Regardless, he looked past appearances. That idea has immense value in viewing our contributions as well as our lives.

After a recent event in Denver, I gave a copy of *Seeing True: The Way of Spirit* to a friend. I thought the content would be useful to her. In fact, the real contribution was in allowing her to examine her discomfort as a result of receiving a gift for which she had done nothing. That was not the outcome I anticipated.

My mentor, Sam, had no idea when he moved to a small Texas town he would become the seed for fresh ideas and new energy in a local fraternal group. Indeed, that group doesn't even know he was the source of the benefits they now reap. His contributions are anonymous.

Another friend in the Amarillo area is currently launching into the creation of a Chataqua style design for her speaking practice that promises to produce as yet untold benefits in and beyond her community. Already the approach is not what she expected, and the end product is probably going to be more different still.

Tiger Woods likely could never have imagined the cultural breakthrough I saw recently as an African American girl played golf side by side with a Native American boy. One can only wonder at the effects of Hillary Clinton's run for the presidency, last month's apology by the Prime Minister of Canada for the wrongs done to indigenous peoples, or the efforts of a woman in the Cincinnati airport who went out of her way to help a senior who was weeping for unknown reasons.

Ken Wilber, a modern day American philosopher, says that our world and all that animates it is incredibly rich in depth, the unknown and the unknowable. In contrast, he notes the human psyche insists on rendering that vastness into an oversimplification which then becomes our reality. Wilber calls that place "flatland," a reality stripped of majesty, mystery and possibility.

When we can look past the appearances of our lives and the outcomes they produce to imagine infinity, then we are seeing true. When we drop our singular interpretations, we can consider the realm of the possible. When we can conceive of realities other than those we typically envision, then potential can be realized.

There is a simple exercise we can practice to rebirth awe for this world and our place in it. Take any of your actions each day and brainstorm the possible outcomes. Don't hold back ... consider the ripples that could spread ... open your thoughts to the future ... imagine both the probable and the improbable. Do this over a period of time and notice how it changes what you see and think.

Remember, at most our vision includes only a small slice of the reality of our lives and the outcomes they produce. At a minimum, that should provoke thought and wonder. At best it just might unleash the impossible.

All the best ... which is truly vast!

Ron

p.s. If you'd like to know more about my appearances, click on the web link below for touring information. I'll be in Phoenix on July 20th for a bookstore event followed by a three day leadership workshop at The Summer Institute. And on July 27th, tune in at 8:00 a.m. MDT to Live the Day Radio in the Denver area on KKZN AM 760 for an extremely energetic interview. Then in mid-August I'll deliver a workshop in Asheville, NC, my first event in the area around my new home. And I've begun the concept design for the teleseminars some have requested, so stay tuned.

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