

Wandering in the right direction!

Initiating a Christ led Journey on a Wild Path



...For I'm trained in the secret of overcoming all things, whether in fullness or in hunger. And I find that the strength of Christ's explosive power infuses me to conquer every difficulty. —Paul. Philippians 4:12-13 [The Passion Translation].

This is a fresh invitation to slow down and thoughtfully consider the lives we find ourselves living in light of the generous offer to not only live in sonship but to wander on the wild path with the map of Sonship that has been given to us by our good Father.

"So if you're serious about living this new resurrection life with Christ, act like it. Pursue the things over which Christ presides. Don't shuffle along, eyes to the ground, absorbed with the things right in front of you. Look up, and be alert to what is going on around Christ—that's where the action is. See things from his perspective." Colossians 3:1-2 MSG

Having walked with God as a Kingdom apprentice for over seven decades, Author; Wendell Berry offered these words through the voice of a character in one of His books known as Jayber Crow: In his the book, Jayber is quoted as saying... "This is a book about Heaven," and then goes on to say; "but I must say too that . . . I have wondered sometimes if it would not finally turn out to be a book about Hell." It is 1932 and he has returned to his native town of Port William to become the town's barber.

Orphaned at age ten, Jayber Crow's familiarity with loneliness and want had made him a patient observer of the human state, in both its goodness and its frailty. He began his search as a "pre-ministerial student" at Pigeonville College. There, new freedoms were met with new burdens where a young man needed more than just a mirror to find himself. The beginning of Jayber Crow finding himself began with a short conversation with a man he called "Old Grit," Whom Jayber respected as his profound professor of New Testament Greek.

Old Grit told him... You have been given questions to which you cannot be given immediate answers. You will have to live them out—perhaps a little at a time."

(Jayber) "And how long is that going to take?"

(Grit) "I don't know. As long as you live, perhaps."

(Jayber) "That could be a long time."

(Old Grit) responded with, "I will tell you a further mystery," and he said. "It may take longer."

What intrigued me about William Berry.

Wendell Berry had developed a pretty clear-sighted depiction the struggle of men and everything that comes with it. For instance as you read his work, He speaks to humanity's gifts—love and loss, joy and despair—gathered over many years and seen though his lifetime. Even more interesting is the intimate knowledge he gained by reviewing his own soul and the soul of humanity. In his writings. He said this...

"Now I have had most of the life I am going to have, and I can see what it has been. I can remember those early years when it seemed to me I was completely adrift, and times when, looking back at earlier times, it seemed I had been

wandering in the dark woods of error. But now it looks to me as though I was following a path that was laid out for me, unbroken, and maybe even as straight as possible, from one end to the other, and I have this feeling, which never leaves me anymore, that I have been led. I will leave you to judge the truth of that for yourself."

How can we enter a new season in our lives as men being led rather than men who struggle away at making their own life work?

Often, I find that it seems helpful if I am given longer periods of time to devolp myself but I also know how prone I am to disingage or even procrastinate. I can't ignore the fact that Jesus extends an ever present invitation to pause, an opportunity to reset my imagination and heart upon God and his Kingdom and review what is going on in my very core/soul.

So, here is the question and challenge for the new season. How can looking back over this year help align you with God as he leads you into the year ahead? It takes simple initiation!

Decade by decade I am more convinced that ingaging as men or masculine initiation is intended to be our primary vehicle, narrative, and interpretive grid for understanding our lives. Why? Because you can't steer a parked car. So ask yourselves.

3 QUESTIONS TO INITIATE: What have you been doing? What are you doing now? And what are you going to do going forward? This is the line of questioning that will cause Initiation, and engagement. Furthurmore, the will require you to review of your soul!

We must understand as men, as a collective and as individuals, ours is the story of becoming the kind of trustworthy men who can steward creative and relational power in union with Jesus, our Brother and High King. We may not think that we are trustworthy enough to accept this challenge but remember! As spirtual men; We have been hardwired in His Image and moreso, we are being led by a good Father in our wanderings and over a long period of time. It is our story!

Here are some reflections that I have gathered over the years from suggestions and questions, offered to me through other spirtual men who have given care to my soul when I allowed it. They and others have shepherd me

into what I have determined is a life-giving way of looking back, in order to see forward that has initiated movement in my spiritual walk and Union with my Father, and caused me to routinely pause to consider what's going on in my soul and what direction to wander!

So let's slow down and linger with that thought for a moment.

What if finding your soul, initiating your soul, and wandering on the Wild Path of Jesus like an apprentice and a son: A son who is on his way to becoming a king under the wise and worthy authority of Heaven were the primary interpretative grid for your story and how can I get on this track with simplicity? What if I put that car in gear?

Practical Application

What would it look like if we were to engage start every day in this new year with those three simple soul questions and we did it while enjoying the security of our sonship. What if we daily accepted an invitation to review our soul, and What if we we had the expectation and anticipation that it would spark ongoing initiation in my spirituality? Living in a way that goes deeper with Jesus? What if all I have to do is put my parked car in drive.

Accept His Invitation to work in you, ask the 3 questions, and log the answer. Now, Initiate, engage, Take yourself out of the Park gear. Wander on the Path of Jesus, and engage your journey. You may not know where that path is going to take you but you can't get anywhere by staying in park!

What has Christ been doing in me over this past year?

What is Christ doing in me presently?

What does He want to doing in me over in the coming year?

What would it look like to receive fresh clarity from these questions and firmer footing around them?

Does your Soul long for more?

Does it give you initiative to start a new journey?