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Open Secret

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Open Secret

Sometimes fresh ideas come to us in a linear fashion, by making connections one at a time - much like a child putting one block on top of another. Often enough we seek answers to questions in a reasoned and logical manner, as when we "Google" a word or expression to find what we wish to know. But frequently, some of our best thinking seems to arise in a non-linear fashion as if from some hidden, secret source that we do not control. We cannot open this source and examine the contents as one could with a catalog, selecting one brilliant idea from a list of offerings.

For most of us, new and helpful thoughts appear in consciousness with no observable connection with our previous lines of thinking. This happens frequently enough so that we have likely become familiar with the experience, yet each new insight we receive has about it an element of surprise. Receiving inspirations is an open secret: partially hidden, even from us, yet readily apparent, as though we had a cell phone that allowed us to receive incoming messages without need of handling, using buttons, or anything else, other than our willingness to listen.

To find already existing information, we choose a particular source: a radio or TV station, email or other web-based program, published materials, or a consultant. To receive inspirations, new ideas, or surprising answers to questions, we have only to put ourselves in a receptive mode, where the only control we exercise is deciding whether to accept and act on what we receive, or to dismiss what comes to mind.

How very interesting and perhaps amusing - at least upon reflection - that a process so significant for quality of life, and so fruitful in practical outcomes each day, cannot be bought or sold, transferred from one person to another, or compelled to perform in any way. The experience of receiving inspirations is as pleasant as receiving a compliment, and is more beneficial for work and for play, for prayer and every creative exercise, as any other resource that we can access. That we do not have control over inspirations does not make them any less valuable to us than the healing affects of a good night's rest, or the positive influence of conversing with a friend.

Inspirations have much in common with love. We cannot live without love, but love is always gratuitous, never forced. Even though "the best things in life are free," they often come to us to the degree that

we are open to them and welcome such gifts. We always retain the power to reject what is offered and not to believe in anything that we neither deserve nor earn. But we also have the more than equal and opposite power to trust, and to look for any and all thoughts and desires that enable us to fulfill the purpose of our existence.

Though we can welcome inspiration while attributing the process primarily to our sub-conscious, giving thanks to God for helpful thoughts increases our appreciation for them. In addition, we have Someone to ask, whenever we cannot make the next thought or word that we need appear on demand from our own minds.

The Source of inspiration is an open secret. "Ask, and it will be given you." (Luke 11:9)