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## Turning Corners

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## Turning Corners

When we walk on city streets, and literally turn a corner, the view before us changes, and we can no longer see the area behind that we had recently traversed. As we look to the right and to the left, we can now catch sight of a set of buildings, vehicles, persons, and equipment that were not within sight only moments previously. Since we cannot normally see around a corner, our perspective is altered only after we have made the turn, not before. And, when we make the choice to proceed forward, we commit ourselves to dealing with the presently unseen realities that we will surely soon encounter.

In our lives of work, health concerns, relationships, and all challenging situations, "turning a corner" means progress, growth, improvement, and advancement. The process is always positive, and also somewhat mysterious.

We can desire, intend, and even strive to "turn a corner" in some ongoing problematic working relationship, for example, but more is required than all the good-willed efforts that we can muster. Putting one foot in front of the other and making a left or right turn is not enough. Our decision to move forward as best we can is essential, but so too are the roles of inspiration within us and the movements around us that mysteriously correspond with and complement our actions.

If we reflect on any of our experiences of "turning a corner," we might recognize that some elements are under our control and some are completely beyond our powers. We often say of a person who has been sick, for example, that he or she "turned a corner" and began a noticeable recovery. We might have visited and prayed for the person, medical personnel might have acted within their capacities, but none of us can say with certainty, much less "prove" how the patient's healing took place. We can be thankful for every change for the better without fully knowing how it happens.

Since the experience of "turning corners" is so significant a part of our lives, we might want to review, and perhaps savor, some of them. If the only consequence was to provide us with a few moments of gratitude, that would be a sufficient reason for looking into our past. But even more, when we consider some of the significant changes for the better that we have made, we can grow in trust that more lie ahead for us, and find encouragement for taking the essential first steps that lead to further progress.

We might recall with pleasure some of the perspectives, ways of relating, and insights that were new for us at the time and that are now habitual. We might have come to realize that love of God means love of those around us, including those most difficult to appreciate or understand. We might have "turned a corner" in our ways of thinking about ourselves, no longer permitting the kinds of negative thoughts that had long been persecuting us. We might have become more honest with one or more persons to whom we give our trust; honest with God about all that we think and feel, hiding nothing of what we find uncomfortable or embarrassing. We all have experiences worth recalling.

Turning corners is for those who are willing to make a change for the better, based not on exact knowledge of all that lies ahead, but on the belief that we are in the midst of a purposeful, meaningful environment where, even as we acknowledge all the suffering and misery that exist around us, Love rules.