

Breaking Free of the Catch-22

Many people end up staying in their jobs, relationships, or familiar environments, because they struggle to believe there is an alternative. They don't believe they have a choice. Just consider for a moment that this is not true - that there is a Force of good in the world who knows our needs before we have even thought of them... who lovingly created us for a specific purpose... and whose absolute pleasure it is to look after us, if we are sincere about finding out what our purpose for being here is. The problem is, if we are fearful and don't trust that what has just been shared is true, then we are more likely to structure our lives in ways that stop us from experiencing the truth, which can create a self-fulfilling prophecy... or place us in a Catch-22 situation.

If you found out that everything you really need in life is provided for when you find your true purpose, then it is unlikely that you would want to go back to a state of existence that hinders this reality. However, many people argue that because they haven't experienced this then it doesn't exist... rather than seeing that their limited vision, or disbelief, is probably the reason why they haven't experienced it's truth. This is something that can change when we choose to re-structure our beliefs and circumstances. Often this starts with a simple acknowledgement that we may have a bias - that we may be wrong - and that there may be another way of going about things after all. This takes faith, but it also takes humility.

God is not a theological construct, or an argument to be won. God is The Spirit of Love and Truth who created everything, whom we are each in a very deep, personal relationship with (whether we realise this or not), and whom we can experience right here and right now.

We have found that it is usually best to say less about our beliefs to the people whom we are helping and to let the action do most, if not all, of the 'preaching' for us. However, because it is (sadly) quite rare for someone to have a complete stranger volunteer to help them with no strings attached, this often leads to them feeling curious about what we're doing, which in turn prompts them to ask us questions... which can end up naturally revealing more about why we are doing what we are doing.

The beauty of the Seek-First-The-Kingdom principle is that helping and loving others is its own intrinsic reward. We are given immense satisfaction from seeing people's lives touched when we choose to help them out, without thought of getting something in return from them. And the additional reward is that we usually find our own needs get looked after as well.

Often, but not always, this comes from the people whom we are helping, who feel inspired to offer us food, drink, clothing, shelter, showers etc.. However, on many occasions it does not come through the people we help, but through some other means. For example, on the Faith Outreach mentioned earlier, the four of us walked past a BBQ area late one evening, after we had done a free work project elsewhere, and exactly the right amount of food for four people had been left on a table there, seemingly just waiting for us!

It is impossible to create a system out of Living-By-Faith. If it were possible, it wouldn't be faith! Human nature likes to worry about how we are going to survive. The more we can work at not worrying, the better... as the more we worry, the more we restrict God's provision... which usually leads to us worrying even more.