

Toetrede

Liturgie van die Lig

Aanstreek van die kerse

Lied 476

'n Vaste burg is onse God,
 ons skuil in Hom, die sterke.
 Hy is 'n vesting in die nood
 vir ewig staan sy werke.
 Al kom die Bose aan
 in sy oorwinnaars-waan,
 ons weet by al sy lis,
 sy lot is reeds beslis
 God self stel aan hom perke.

Gord ons met eie krag ons aan
 dan is die stryd verlore.
 Oorwinning is alreeds behaal
 deur Een daartoe verkore.
 Vra u sy Naam, so weet
 dat Hy die Christus heet;
 gaan Hy voor in gevaar,
 Heer van sy leërskaar,
 nooit is die stryd verlore!

Woorddiens

Tema: Gebroke harte...

Skriflesing: Psalm 34

"To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything and your heart will be wrung and possibly broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact you must give it to no one, not even an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements. Lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket, safe, dark, motionless, airless, it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable. To love is to be vulnerable."

— C.S. Lewis, *The Four Loves*

Broodjies vir die pad

"Blessed are the hearts that can bend; they shall never be broken."
 — Albert Camus



"How else but through a broken heart may Lord Christ enter in?"
 — Oscar Wilde

Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde was an Irish playwright, poet and author of numerous short stories and one novel. Known for his biting wit, and a plentitude of aphorisms, he became one of the most successful playwrights of the late Victorian era in London, and one of the greatest celebrities of his day. Several of his plays continue to be widely performed, especially *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

As the result of a widely covered series of trials, Wilde suffered a dramatic downfall and was imprisoned for two years hard labour after being convicted of "gross indecency" with other men. After Wilde was released from prison he set sail for Dieppe by the night ferry. He never returned to Ireland or Britain, and died in poverty.

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/3565.Oscar_Wilde



Closing The Cycle

One always has to know when a stage comes to an end. If we insist on staying longer than the necessary time, we lose the happiness and the meaning of the other stages we have to go through. Closing cycles, shutting doors, ending chapters - whatever name we give it, what matters is to leave in the past the moments of life that have finished.

Did you lose your job? Has a loving relationship come to an end? Did you leave your parents' house? Gone to live abroad? Has a long-lasting friendship ended all of a sudden?

You can spend a long time wondering why this has happened. You can tell yourself you won't take another step until you find out why certain things that were so important and so solid in your life have turned into dust, just like that. But such an attitude will be awfully stressing for everyone involved: your parents, your husband or wife, your friends, your children, your sister, everyone will be finishing chapters, turning over new leaves, getting on with life, and they will all feel bad seeing you at a standstill.

None of us can be in the present and the past at the same time, not even when we try to understand the things that happen to us. What has passed will not return: we cannot for ever be children, late adolescents, sons that feel guilt or rancor towards our parents, lovers who day and night relive an affair with someone who has gone away and has not the least intention of coming back.

Things pass, and the best we can do is to let them really go away. That is why it is so important (however painful it may be!) to destroy souvenirs, move, give lots of things away to orphanages, sell or donate the books you have at home. Everything in this visible world is a manifestation of the invisible world, of what is going on in our hearts - and getting rid of certain memories also means making some room for other memories to take their place.

Let things go. Release them. Detach yourself from them. Nobody plays this life with marked cards, so sometimes we win and sometimes we lose. Do not expect anything in return, do not expect your efforts to be appreciated, your genius to be discovered, your love to be understood. Stop turning on your emotional television to watch the same program over and over again, the one that shows how much you suffered from a certain loss: that is only poisoning you, nothing else.

Nothing is more dangerous than not accepting love relationships that are broken off, work that is promised but there is no starting date, decisions that are always put off waiting for the "ideal moment." Before a new chapter is begun, the old one has to be finished: tell yourself that what has passed will never come back. Remember that there was a time when you could live without that thing or that person - nothing is irreplaceable, a habit is not a need. This may sound so obvious, it may even be difficult, but it is very important.

Closing cycles. Not because of pride, incapacity or arrogance, but simply because that no longer fits your life. Shut the door, change the record, clean the house, shake off the dust. Stop being who you were, and change into who you are.

— Paulo Coelho



"Our language has wisely sensed these two sides of man's being alone. It has created the word "loneliness" to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word "solitude" to express the glory of being alone. Although, in daily life, we do not always distinguish these words, we should do so consistently and thus deepen our understanding of our human predicament."

— Paul Tillich, *The Eternal Now*

"The courage to be is the courage to accept oneself, in spite of being unacceptable."

— Paul Tillich

"Grace strikes us when we are in great pain and restlessness. It strikes us when we walk through the dark valley of a meaningless and empty life. It strikes us when our disgust for our own being, our indifference, our weakness, our hostility, and our lack of direction and composure have become intolerable to us. It strikes us when, year after year, the longed-for perfection of life does not appear, when the old compulsions reign within us as they have for decades, when despair destroys all joy and courage. Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying: "You are accepted."

— Paul Tillich

Paul Tillich was a German-American theologian and Christian existentialist philosopher. Tillich was – along with his contemporaries Rudolf Bultmann (Germany), Karl Barth (Switzerland), and Reinhold Niebuhr (United States) – one of the four most influential Protestant theologians of the 20th century. Among the general populace, he is best known for his works *The Courage to Be* (1952) and *Dynamics of Faith* (1957), which introduced issues of theology and modern culture to a general readership. Theologically, he is best known for his major three-volume work *Systematic Theology* (1951–63), in which he developed his "method of correlation": an approach of exploring the symbols of Christian revelation as answers to the problems of human existence raised by contemporary existential philosophical analysis.

https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/41343.Paul_Tillich

Brood vir die pad

Aanvaarding is nie te vinde in 'likes' op Facebook

"Jy is aanvaar."

Dit is die opskrif van een van die Protestantse teoloog Paul Tillich se bekendste preke. Sy teks is Romeine 5:20: ". . . en hoe meer die sonde geword het, hoe oerloediger het die genade geword." Tillich begin sy preek, gelewer in 1946, deur

daarop te wys dat woorde soos "sonde" en "genade" vir die meeste mense vreemd geword het, deels omdat dit oorbekend geraak het.

Maar tog meen Tillich dat 'n woord soos "genade" steeds 'n misterieuse krag besit. Tillich sou daarom waarskynlik die woorde van die Ierse rockgroep U2 in hul lied "Grace" beaam: "*Grace / It's a name for a girl / It's also a thought that changed the world.*"

In hierdie dae dat die 500-jarige herdenking van die Reformasie gevier word, word ons opnuut aan die transformatiewe krag van genade herinner. "Sola gratia" (die genade alleen) is immers een van die slagspreuke wat gebruik word om die dryfveer agter kerkhervormers soos Martin Luther se diepste teologiese insigte te verwoord.

Maar waarin lê die vreemde krag van hierdie idee? Het dit dalk met die diepliggende menslike behoefte na aanvaarding te make? Of met die wete dat op 'n fundamentele vlak ons selfwaarde en identiteit nie bloot op die erkenning van vriende of instellings gebou kan word nie, of op hoeveel "likes" ons op Facebook kry nie?

In sy preek wys Tillich daarop dat ons nie self ons lewens kan verander nie. Ons benodig daarvoor wat hy "the stroke of grace" noem. Dié genadeslag tref ons dikwels midde-in ervarings van groot pyn en rusteloosheid.

Dit tref ons wanneer ons deur die donker dal van leegte en sinloosheid stap. Dit tref ons wanneer ons ly as gevolg van die feit dat ons van geliefdes vervreemd geraak het. Dit tref ons wanneer ons vreugde en lewenskrag deur wanhoop vernietig word.

In sulke oomblikke kan dit gebeur dat daar 'n straal van lig in ons donkerte inskyn.

Dan is dit asof 'n stem vir ons sê: "Jy is aanvaar." In sulke tye moet 'n mens nie probeer om iets te doen nie. Nee, sê Tillich: "*Aanvaar eenvoudig die feit dat jy aanvaar is.*"

Vir Tillich is dit in sulke oomblikke dat ons genade beleef. Ná so 'n ervaring is ons nie ewe skielik beter mense as vantevore nie.

Maar tog is alles grondig verander. Genade oorwin sonde, en versoening oorbrug vervreemding. Ons ontvang selfs die genade om anders na onself, ander mense en ons wêreld te kyk.

Of om weer uit U2 se lied aan te haal: "Grace finds beauty in everything." – **RRV**

<https://www.netwerk24.com/Stemme/Menings/aanvaarding-is-nie-te-vinde-in-likes-op-facebook-20171027>



Lied 526

Waar daar liefde is, en deernis,
waar daar liefde is, daar is God die Heer.
Ubi caritas, et amor
ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.