Death is inevitable

Death is inevitable; we can’t choose option “B”.

Since death is inevitable, we can die with dignity or we can die in despair. Living well begins with first dying well. Middle teen years are a good time to begin to train.

I was reminded again this week just how often we simply let life take its course with us and we try to adapt along the way. This is way too passive and lacks the framework of wisdom’s design.

I fear this tends to be true because we know God through intellectual discourse rather than direct experience.

Yet the heart of the New Covenant is face to face living with our God.

Recently, 2 of my wing buddies have served up very anointed messages straight from the heart of God.

You can go to Creekside Community Church, Alamo, their website and download the podcasts. Brian Fuery’s Passover message brings into sharp focus the pivotal moment in Israel’s story where it can turn to triumph or towards tragedy. You and I also have that same front row seat.

Doug McBride does the yeoman’s share of the teaching there and there is none better. These are my brothers for sure but I only bring this to your attention because of what our God is doing in them and through them. Check out Doug’s parable of the pounds. One of the things that I enjoy doing is downloading these podcasts and letting them play as I am doing chores or puttering in the barn making widgets. Fill your mind with things that will add character to you. Stay away from all the “noise” that abounds these days. I can’t tell you how grievous it is to me when brothers gather and all they want to do is bash the liberals of our country and our emperor.

Brothers, we need to be pursuing our God and let Him worry about the noise in our land. We need to be leaning in, doing our part, but understand that our part will always be destructive unless it is animated by our God’s spirit.

It seems every day as I sit with wonderful folks in my office I spend a lot of my day unwinding really bad theology.

So often one is under the load of self effort, doing for God, being good for God, trying hard for God. These all will take us to a futile place. The longer I walk with my God, the more obscure He becomes to me. One would think rationally, no God should become more clear, not more obscure, right?

Clarity and redundancy is for the “little ones”, not for those that are moving on to meat. As God trains out our delusional mindset of “knowing and having things figured out”, you will find there is a child inside delighting in the intrigue of a Dad that is playing games. In obscurity, Abba calls out to me. Not a God withholding, but rather a playful Father wooing a child into new dimensions, training new senses to come online, and is this process our development into who we really are, sons and daughters of the Most High.
You can either be sane in the kingdom of man and crazy in the kingdom of Christ; or sane in the kingdom of Christ and crazy in the kingdom of man. There is no mixing of the two. In our blessed Lord’s heart is the longing that we come out of our delusions that we can make life work. That we get, that when we are not enough, when we come up short, when my broken shards in my personality show and gash those that I love, it is here that the Trinity becomes most aroused and hopeful that we might realize, finally, we have a shot at having our being. Maybe if my eyes open wide enough I can see Three beings, sitting on the edge of their seats pleading with their eyes to simply ask for their completeness to invade my incompleteness.

How often, do you think, when you show ugly that this is a wonderful thing happening? How often is showing ugly associated to your freedom, or becoming free?

Your ugly is a symptom, a marker to truth - you brother are simply not enough, you really do have a small wiener, you go limp far too frequently at critical moments. If we can stop making ourself the center of the universe, and ask for the empowerment of our God’s potency, I assure you transformation will take place. This is why Jesus could say my yoke is easy and my burden light. It’s because they do all the heavy lifting.

Ours is never a passive role. In fact, despite the propensity we as men have to retreat, I can see no where in scripture where this is a part of our design. To be “extant” means to be extant (“in existence; still existing; not destroyed or lost”), not some of the time, but as our course in this life. I fail miserably at this dudes. I’m of good Scandinavian stock, and at times the way we binge on ruminating, you would think someone in Norway said, this is how you climax.

It is not uncommon to hear of “man caves.” If you have a man cave it is not in your best interest or ours for you to retreat there and sulk, ruminate and grow dark on us. You go to your man cave to meet with God Almighty and create life together anew and then you come to give those gifts to those that you are connected to.

Now listen, if you go to God and you don’t get “filled up”, then wisdom is calling you to get with several of your wing buddies that you most respect and be brazenly honest with them and let the Spirit of the Lord speak thru them to you.

You do not sit in your ashes and formulate what reality is and then re-engage your loved ones pouring that out on them. It’s poison.

Remember when Adam walked with God? There came that day where Adam felt “alone” and God said, “This ain't cool.” God has functionally chosen to not “be enough.” In the plurality of brother, just like the Trinity there is accountability. When I am open and honest before my brothers it invokes humility and causes me to avoid hiding and nursing my delusions. God obviously is more than enough, but functionally He understands, just as it is with money- you either train to give it away, to fling it away, or it will devour you. So too, when we humble ourselves before each other we fling our egos out there. The more we train to do this in true humility, the stronger, purer we become in our masculine energy. Ironically, when we don’t develop a lifestyle of humility and vulnerability, we train boy energy into our being rather than man energy. It’s easy to spot a dude with man energy; women are drawn to him and men want to hang out with him, be with him. Boys on the other hand live isolated
lives demanding much of all they touch and those they share life with. What you feel around a man is drawn towards; what you feel around a boy is repulsion.

Men aren’t afraid of their fears, yet despite the fear they lean in to it. They know capacity is trained into a man by being in circumstances or places that are bigger than they are. A Godly man also knows that His Father knows him far better than he could ever know himself and he deeply trusts where the Captain of hosts leads is going to be one wild and crazy ride.

Have we grown so soft that we simply want our cuddly Jesus? When we speak of eyes to see and ears to hear, how do we propose that we are to gain these new dimensions? Order them from Amazon?

Our journey is from insanity to reality. We will never get there unless we are willing to fully let go and let God. This is what St. John of the Cross called the Dark Night Of the Soul. Whereas most evangelicals have butchered this as a dark dungeon, God takes you to it and beats the (you fill in the blank) out of you. In reality St. John, never conveyed, but rather like Ps. 23 a good God takes you “into an enemies camp” where the human mind either explodes in rebellion towards God or ultimately collapses into the bosom of our sacred Father - where we whisper “I don’t get it God, but I know you are good and even if you slay me, I will bless you”. And brothers, as those words leave our lips we get stronger, “even though you slay me, I will bless you” becomes even more impassioned. Ultimately crescendo’ing in the same proclamation that now sounds somewhere between deep passion and Godly rage.

For in that moment you and I will become free men, left to the beauty and creativity of a God that many, many years ago saw a need and formed you in His mind, just as you are today and now hovers over you and whispers, “live My son, live.”

Pick up your life my blessed brothers and walk...

To the King and the Kingdom and sighters that see...

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