

Theme: We are at a threshold...a threshold time.

Right now, unlike any other time in our lifetimes, we have an opportunity to move forward differently...not to resume or assume but to cross over to a new way of being. John O'Donohue says it this way:

“At any time you can ask yourself: At which threshold am I now standing?
At this time in my life, what am I leaving? Where am I about to enter?
What is preventing me from crossing my next threshold?
What gift would enable me to do it?

A threshold is not a simple boundary; it is a frontier that divides two different territories, rhythms, and atmospheres. Indeed, it is a lovely testimony to the fullness and integrity of an experience or a stage of life that it intensifies toward the end into a real frontier that cannot be crossed without the heart being passionately engaged and woken up.

At this threshold a great complexity of emotion comes alive: confusion, fear, excitement, sadness, hope. What is your story? Not all parts of the story come gift wrapped, but all parts of the story hold wisdom for you to move forward.

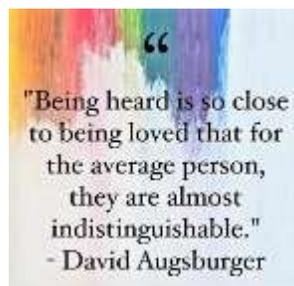
It is wise in your own life to be able to recognize and acknowledge the key thresholds:
to take your time;
to feel all the varieties of presence that accrue there;
to listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you forward.

The time has come to cross.”

When you begin to gain insight honoring from where you have come, honoring what has worked well already, and awakening to what is needed now....

you begin to get glimpses of what can be. You see the threshold.

And often what helps us move forward, is the sense of being heard, valued, loved.



We hear each other into life.

This is a threshold time and this is a sanctuary space in which we offer belonging to each other, hear each other, Holy love each other and appreciate each other's wisdom. Here, you can try on being that new human being Jesus invites us to become...perhaps fail at first, but then try again.

Grace invites us to move forward into this threshold moment.

We cross the threshold as we embrace the fullness of our life stories and all the wisdom they hold. And we find, so often, hope comes from the very place the hurt comes.

Music video.

We're At A Threshold!

*"Owning Our Power...Grace Upon Grace...
Growing the Contagion of Calm At This Threshold Time"*

Mark 10: 46-52

October 24, 2021

A God moment, a synchronicity of holiness...a threshold moment...is often first experienced as surprise, followed by resistance, and then a release of energy...

as we enter into the moment more fully...

take that first holy step forward.

Holiness opens us up, our hearts fill with courage.

Courage: living the moment full of the wisdom of the whole of our life's story...not just one part of our story.

With full hearts, we are divinely made able to step forward embracing "more" ...
so much more than we ever imagined possible before.

We don't have to think our way into...*you* don't have to think your way into a new way of living. Figure it out. Cover all the angles.

Instead, held within Divine Presence at this threshold moment,
you get to live your way into a new way of thinking.

(Center for Prophetic Imagination).

*Take that step and live forward into a new way of being alive!
Breathe in peace and calming.*

Let "be" the world's anxieties and constructs.
"Be" in the fullness of your humanity...our humanity.

At this Threshold time, in this time of a contagious virus as well as many anxious internet viral contagious conspiracy theories...wrapped in emotion and politics...

at this Threshold moment, instead of being stuck or afraid or fading away or pushing against or coming out fighting or giving in to a contagion of anxiety...

instead, as people of faith,

let us spread...a contagion...of calm.

As the world is facing more difficult variants of the Coronavirus,
as work and school and family routines and expectations
also continue to morph,

as Tippe's new pastor prepares to come...
we have a choice we can make.

As we find ourselves at this threshold, let's consider...
instead of living in panic, exhausted/spreading anxiety...

Let's be part of a contagion of calm.

(A phrase coined by Shirley Paulson of Early Christian Texts which explores the wisdom of
the gospels of the New, New Testament.)

In Biblical times, as now...anxiety was palpable. Today, there's real anxiety about a
contagious virus. Rightly so.

But perhaps we are *even more* anxious about a contagion of worry and anger spreading all
around us from which people are reacting.

Everyone is in some way...anxious!

But we, as faithing people, know a calm.

This calm comes from a deep oneness...a connection to the divinity within that sees
beyond current circumstances and the world's neigh Sayers. A oneness that brings us
together in powerful ways.

The experience of this calm more than offsets the palpable anxiety around us. It, in fact,
anchors us in the seas of life.

We anchor together through life's storms. If we will.

We need not be blown off course.

We can stay the course.

We can sail toward new horizons of possibilities in the life
that is ours...storms and all.

Waves of calm. A contagious calm as we become one.

We become what has been referred to in ancient texts as an “immovable generation.” Not as in “rigid”, but as in powerfully able...not easily blown off course.

According to many ancient texts, there is considerable power within us to remain our authentic selves. It's already in us...
the contagious power of calm! If we will access it!

These writings suggest that we humans are not helpless despite what others may try to make us think.

And boy are politicians trying to make us think we are helpless and encouraging us to stay anxious and lash out at each other.

But, we can give ourselves to the power of our oneness:
attaining calm in the midst of anxiety and
the turbulence all around us.
We are made holy able to be unshakable.

Immovable *in this* way: we don't give in or up. We don't panic.
We take the long view, eyes set on the horizon
toward which we sail...together.

We can find examples of this innate way of being in the writing of Psalmists.

For example, in Psalm 21:7, “the king/queen trusts the Lord, and through the *steadfast* love of the Most High...*shall not be moved*”.

And today, we are the immovable kings and queens
held in Holy, Steadfast Love.
Remember this...hang in there!

This power of ours to be steadfast is built upon a profound trust in Divinity, and allows us to become the calm we long to live.

AND, we can spread to others the influence
of our calming presence. If we choose to!

Other Wisdom Teachings affirming our innate calm?

From the *Gospel of Truth 29:1*:

“terror and disturbance and instability and doubt and division” vanish in the presence of the calming truth.

In the *Gospel of Mary*, we know Mary had attained the status of the “immovable generation” despite the testing she endured to get there. Listen...

In the *Gospel of Mary 7:3*, the Lord said to her,

“How wonderful you are for *not wavering* at seeing me”!

Mary remained calm, immovable even, though things were tense.

How’s that going for you?

You know, Mary had nothing you don’t already have, too!

And, remember in the *Gospel of Mary*, Peter and Andrew were so anxious, they started arguing with Mary about her position of authority.

But at least one of the disciples, Levi, acknowledged the source of her serene authority...Jesus/God.

And Levi’s *own* calm approach became contagious, and ultimately all the disciples agreed to do what they had been taught to do in the first place:

they “started going out to teach and to preach” (10:14).

Spread a contagion of calm and care! BTW, it doesn’t say convert.

These and many other texts not only claim the source of calm within humanity’s original state of being,

but also the contagious power of calm in the midst of confusion, turmoil and danger.

They...and we...become immovable, unshakable when we trust in the God’s care and God’s confidence in us.

When we...take the long view, keep our eyes on the horizon, don’t get bogged down in the muck!

I think you have felt that calm here at Tippe these last 18 months.

Did it surprise you?

Did you resist it at first?

Are you letting the calm spread throughout your life...not just holding it captive here in worship?

Are you giving yourself to...are you becoming energized...into a new way of being you...

finding yourself in a state of calm? Powerfully, together?

Less flighty? More immovable/steady?

Finding new thresholds of possibility all around you?

This calm comes through thoughtful sorting and also through the skills we've been building to respond vs react to our lives.

This clam and these skills can be revisited through the worship services that are posted on our website and are also in podcast form.

*Oh...*how many times a day – and how many times throughout the past 18 months – have we heard discussions of contagion?

Virus and viral.

Mostly scary, negative stories of how sick we really are.

But we are to re-discover a great healing power already within us to counteract this sickness and embrace the ancient yet current

“immovable generation’s contagion of calm.”

End Notes: [1] Michael A. Williams is credited with noticing the widespread understanding of this concept in his book, *The Immovable Race: A Gnostic Designation and the Theme of Stability in Late Antiquity*, Nag Hammadi studies 29 (Leiden: Brill, 1985)

As you approach your next threshold and before you step...

Slow down

Calm down

Don't worry

Don't hurry

Trust the process....trust in Divine Presence.

(Alexandria Stoddard)

So many thresholds...one at a time...

on our own...together.

Each one of us full of the wisdom coming from the experience of our life stories.

Invite Divine presence from within to guide you
into the fullness of your humanity.

Listen inward with complete attention until you hear the inner voice calling you out and forward: The time has come to cross!

Cross over into the fullness of freedom becoming one within,
one with our God, one with each other.

Calm is contagious and we are an immovable people of faith steadied by a Holy Love in which we can trust!

Jesus comes for times such as these!

“At any time you can ask yourself:

At which threshold am I now standing?”