

what goes in will come out

"he who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." john 7:38

there is a vast difference between happiness and blessedness. paul had imprisonments and pains, sacrifice and suffering up to the very limit; but in the midst of it all, he was blessed. all the beatitudes came into his heart and life in the midst of those very conditions.

paganini, the great violinist, came out before his audience one day and made the discovery just as they ended their applause that there was something wrong with his violin. he looked at it a second and then saw that it was not his famous and valuable one.

he felt paralyzed for a moment, then turned to his audience and told them there had been some mistake and he did not have his own violin. he stepped back behind the curtain thinking that it was still where he had left it, but discovered that some one had stolen his and left that old second-hand one in its place. he remained back of the curtain a moment, then came out before his audience and said:

"ladies and gentlemen: i will show you that the music is not in the instrument, but in the soul." and he played as he had never played before; and out of that second-hand instrument, the music poured forth until the audience was enraptured with enthusiasm and the applause almost lifted the ceiling of the building,

because the man had revealed to them that music was not in the machine but in his own soul.

it is your mission, tested and tried one, to walk out on the stage of this world and reveal to all earth and Heaven that the music is not in conditions, not in the things, not in externals, but the music of life is in your own soul.

if peace be in the heart,  
the wildest winter storm is full of solemn beauty,  
the midnight flash but shows the path of duty,  
each living creature tells some new and joyous story,  
the very trees and stones all catch a ray of glory,  
if peace be in the heart.

- charles francis richardson

public domain content taken from streams in the desert  
by mrs. charles cowman.

-----

we learned in elementary school that we are endowed with five senses. touch, taste, smell, see, and hear. i would argue for a sixth sense as well - our spiritual sense. it is that sense that awakens and enhances all the others to true reality; to God reality. that reality indeed can be seen, heard, tasted, smelled and often allows one a touch of it. "reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. do not be unbelieving, but believing." john 20:27

yes, touches today can be as real as the one thomas experienced. it's all in how much you desire that touch. "for everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."  
matt 7:8

but what goes in will come out. what are you letting into yourselves? a cursing environment, eyes viewing pornographic images, thoughts of revenge? it may not be as unseemly as those, but things just as unfruitful or unprofitable. how easily and quickly our sin nature adapts and accepts a "new normal."

God's way: "finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." phil 4:8