

Br. Allen – Satsanga – Glendale Temple - August 2010

1)When I have to perform duties I don't want to do should I perform with a bad attitude or just not perform them?

--performing activities with a bad attitude provides us with an opportunity to learn

--perform duties with a good attitude

--if we choose to enjoy our activities no one can stop us from doing so

--we have to take responsibility for how we feel about things

--bring God into the activity—let God clean the bathroom with you

--if you don't like doing it, just do it

--enthusiasm overcomes everything

--unite ourselves with God all through the day

2)For years I've read and heard that we are made in God's image and I always took that to mean God's physical image, and I felt perplexed and "put off" by that notion. Several weeks ago I was reading a book that talked about the idea that we are made in God's image referring to the fact that we are made in the image of God's mind. I'd like to know to hear more about the metaphysical concept of being made in God's image--that we are not literally made in the physical image of God, that we are made in the image of God's mind.

--Every being is in essence a soul made in the image of God, an image that has nothing to do with body or mind

--it's all spirit; it's all the soul

--self-realization is to know the self—the soul is made in the image of God

--this is not real; this is a dream

--I am happy and no one can take it away from me—when you know this you will know you have found God within you

--when we are in tune with the spirit we know this doesn't matter

--know that you are a God and behave like one

--this world cannot bring us lasting happiness, but spirit has special qualities like bliss, like ever

new joy—that is the joy that lasts

3) I've spent a lot of time this past year deepening my relationship with God and Master and I'm finding it's changing my perspective on the meaning of Christmas. I no longer wish for my Christmases to be about getting gifts, getting things. I want merely to spend time with the people who mean a great deal to me. This is especially important to me since I've suffered a couple of losses this year. The problem I'm having is that people keep asking me what I want them to buy me for Christmas and I keep telling them I just want to spend time with them, but that's not enough for them. How do I convince them that things, that gifts aren't important to me, that they are what matters?

Master on gifts: choose small practical gifts

Every gift we get is a gift from God

It's not the gifts people care about it's the reaction, the excitement, the love behind it.

People will know that you love them.

Love the gifts they give you because there is love behind them.