## The Power of Vulnerability

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Lord, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.

This is the first line of the well-known "Serenity Prayer." The word *serenity* means calm and untroubled. We are so often troubled by the things we cannot change. People, their behavior, circumstances, our past, the weather! Don't we wish we could bring rain to where the fires are or stop the rain where there is flooding?

It is a powerful desire to have serenity—to be calm about the things we cannot change.

The second line of the prayer is:

The courage to change the things I can.

Why does it take courage to change? Change requires vulnerability. It requires being open to something different—changing your expression, habits, relationships, leadership, and job...! All these things go from what you know and are familiar to something new and unknown. And what is unknown makes us feel vulnerable. To be vulnerable is a courageous act. Brené Brown, a researcher and teacher, says:

The definition of vulnerability is uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure. But vulnerability is not weakness—it's our most accurate measure of courage. Being brave is feeling scared or awkward, accepting those feelings, and moving forward anyway.

In a current book I am reading, *How to Forgive What You Cannot Forget*, the author says this:

We can't change what we have experienced. But we can choose how these experiences change us. This summarizes parts one and two of the Serenity Prayer in one sentence!

The third line of the prayer is:

...and the wisdom to know the difference.

## The entire prayer is:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

## Ah, Wisdom!

I am at that stage in my life where I could be labeled a Crone. No longer a girl or a young woman. Past middle age. I don't know at what age you become a crone but I know I have passed it! One of the blessings of this stage of life is supposed to be greater wisdom. With wisdom, as the prayer suggests, comes the ability to see what we can and cannot change.

Recently, David Karchere wrote about walking our life path, acknowledging that our paths are thorny at times.

We cannot deny that we were born into a non-ideal world and that there are things not of our own making that come with the territory of being a human being. Some of the thorns we deal with result from the world we were born into—some as close as our earthly family and some as large as the country where we arrived.

There are also the thorns that have resulted from our choices: some direct, some indirect. The friends we choose and the job we choose can come with thorns. Usually, there are more blessings than thorns, but the thorns are there to be dealt with.

Sometimes the thorns come from making a decision we really thought was wise. I moved to Colorado to partner in a Chiropractic business, be close to Sunrise Ranch, and have new adventures. That partnership turned into a financial, emotional, and vibrational mess. I never thought my friend would behave as she did. I left the practice, lost money, and lost friends who were once mutual but felt sorry for my partner and judged me harshly. I had people I respected dismiss me without knowing any of my part of the story. It was a thorny path. I learned a lot. I touched my strength, my own assurance, and began a new life. I have practiced on my own since 1987, and I am doing fine! I would have worked at a checkout stand in a grocery store if I needed to. I had the courage to change the things I could and the wisdom to choose.

I have good news for you! I did all that when I was 32. So, you don't have to be a crone to be wise. I took steps to be calm and untroubled in a troubled, thorny situation, and in that serenity, I became wise. In the untroubled and calm state, I opened to the possible, to the potential. We can all do that.

David Karchere said this in last week's Pulse of Spirit:

We are here now, and the truth of us is present in the realm of potential... available to be manifest. We are here to let that truth live and let it have its way here and now—to let it have its way with us individually, for sure, and then collectively.

Let that truth live and have its way with you. To let something have its way with you means you are willing to be in union with it and allow that union to manifest through you. You need to be vulnerable and courageous! That's how it is for me. Let Thy will, the will of the Wonderful One within me, be my will. Let my human capacities yield to my Being.

And let me not be distracted by the things in my world that are not in my own best interest. Even though I've made decisions that have taken me down challenging paths, let me continue to say yes to the truth in every moment. I don't want to be a part-time creator. I want to be vulnerable and open to the possible. I want to have that kind of courage where no moments are wasted being afraid of change and no moments are given away to reaction or the circumstance.

That requires some discipline. Staying calm and untroubled often requires assistance. At times, I need to ask for God's grace. I need to ask for a greater vision. I need to put things on my altar and let them rest there until the wisdom shows up. As I said, things can get thorny even when we are paying attention to our greatest wisdom. And things may be working out just perfectly. Either way, when we surrender to it, we have a greater vision of the big picture.

With that vision, we also have the opportunity to see how we may have participated in creating those thorny situations. Was I being honest? Was I paying attention? When I came to Colorado for that new work opportunity, there were no signed agreements—no paper trail. The person who helped us separate heard both our stories and said he couldn't believe we were ever in the same room together! I co-created that mess.

I would like to add my own words to the end of the Serenity Prayer.

As I choose, may I be honorable. May I be in my integrity. May my choices increase my stature as a daughter of God. May I be trustworthy.

As we do these things, we create a powerful vibrational field—a field that can be searched like the Internet. When someone is looking for integrity, your image pops up! Looking for honor, there you are! You or someone else in this powerful vibrational field. We are like a website that has great search engine optimization. All the qualities of a conscious creator direct people to this website. It's a website that is updated with every act of love, integrity, honor, and courage—creatorsinagreement.org not a real website!

Let us welcome serenity, be courageously vulnerable, and wisely steward our worlds, strengthening the vibrational network present in the world today.

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