

Saturday, December 18, 2004

Scripture Reading: I Corinthians 12:29

Text for Today: *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?*

When I began teaching first grade in 1969, I was very full of myself and my calling to God's mission of teaching and working miracles with young children at risk. Each day I asked God to give me the ability and patience to help every child who entered my classroom.

After several challenging years I must confess I began instead to ask: "God, are you sure you want me to work miracles with this new child entering the doorway of Room 201? Could it be that you have my shoulders confused with those of one of your other disciples?"

You see, in my smug immaturity as a Christian, only I could be the teacher and the miracle worker. As God's spirit truly entered my daily work, I began to see that He might be sending specific children to me to work a miracle on me, to teach me one of life's necessary lessons.

When I began to believe that all of God's children may be teachers and even miracle workers, I truly felt the two-way process that life-long learning involves. I began to marvel at and learn from certain young children such qualities as raw courage, resilience, perseverance, and the power of positive thinking against seemingly overwhelming life situations and surroundings.

During this blessed season I am reminded that through the miracle of Christ's birth all newborn babes may become God's teachers and miracle workers.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, in the hustle and bustle of this holiday season, let us not miss the opportunities to experience teaching and miracles to and from one another. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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