

# Soren Kierkegaard

*offered by Jim Fowler*

...the man-pleaser, the one who manages successfully with everyone - he who possesses no sharp edges. God never uses such people. The true individual, anyone who is going to be directly involved with God, will not and cannot avoid the human bite. He will be thoroughly misunderstood. God is no friend of cozy human gathering.

Everyone who will genuinely serve the truth is by that very fact a martyr.

He who walks the narrow path of faith no one can advise, no one can understand.

The majority of people are not so afraid of holding a wrong opinion, as they are of holding an opinion alone.

If it is hard to bear the world's persecution, it is harder still to bear the responsibility for not having acted, to stand ashamed in eternity because you did not win the bold confidence that transforms shame into honor.

Most people think, speak, and write the way they sleep, eat and drink, without any question ever arising as to their relationship to the eternal.

Philosophy is perfectly right in saying that life must be understood backward. But then it forgets the other side -- that it must be lived forwards.

Without some kind of situational tension, there is no real opportunity of becoming...."

Every call from God is always addressed to the single individual. Precisely in this lies the difficulty and the examination, that the one who is called must stand alone, walk alone, alone with God.

Authentic religion has to do with passion...

If I could only have the experience of meeting a passionate thinker, that is, someone who honestly and honorably expressed in his life what he has understood.

The person who is neither cold or hot is an abomination, to God. God is no more served by dud individualities that a marksman is served by a rifle that, in the moment of decision, clicks instead of firing.

Life very much depends upon being alert to catch one's cue.

Adversities do not make a person weak, they reveal what strength he has.

He who himself does not wish to suffer cannot love him who has.

In order to swim you must take off all your clothes. In order to aspire to the truth you must undress in a far more inward sense, divest yourself of all your inward clothes, of thoughts, conceptions, selfishness. Only then are you sufficiently naked.

That Christ makes something big out of something small, as at the feeding of the five thousand, is usually referred to as a miracle. But Christ also works a miracle inversely -- makes something big (everything that wants to be something) into something little. He makes it infinitely nothing in humility.

It is dangerous business to arrive in eternity with possibilities that you have prevented from becoming actualities. Possibility is a hint from God. A person must follow it.

We delude ourselves into thinking that to refrain from venturing is modesty, and that it must please God as humility. No, no! Not to

venture means to make a fool of God -- because all he is waiting for is that you go forth.

Act just once in such a manner that your action expresses that you fear God alone -- you will in some measure or other, instantly cause a scandal.

A human being is only an instrument and never knows when the moment will come when he will be put aside. If he himself does not at times evoke this thought, he is a hireling, an unfaithful servant, who is trying to free himself and to cheat the Lord of the uncertainty in which he comprehends his own nothingness. Even the highest mission in the spiritual world is only an errand.