

A Sermon on Gratitude

Sermon by Rev. Minister Angela Smith of COPE for June 14th, 2020 (and beyond)

This sermon is about appreciating abstract virtue and the saving Grace calling upon Truth and Virtue (aka GOD) has in material world terms as far as using #TaoFu to respond to vices with the correct corresponding virtue or virtues. Many reading this may already be familiar with a practice I employ when I feel the vices of others are tempting me to the vice of Wrath, particularly dishonest people because they tempt me most to Wrath. My defaults when tempted to Wrath are Patience and Due Diligence for the sake of Justice and Due Process which requires Due Diligence and Patience. And, when that fails sometimes injustice turns to wrath which can morph into hate. And, hate is the worst. Hate is rage without love. Hate is venomous rage likely originally born of harm to someone or something loved where the rage has taken over and there is no love because even love has to take a holiday under those circumstances but could be called back by remorse or even honest reason tempering virtue even when a cause is truly or reasonably justified. As a result of temptations to Wrath I've experienced and my understanding that failure to manage such temptations could result in regrettable acts resulting in legal repercussions not unlike with Jesus' experience, I exercise #TaoFu which is another way to say "The Way" which is another way to say self-examination for the purpose of true discernment and to avoid hypocrisy or being corrupted by vice even when born of a virtue such as love.

So, what does that have to do with gratitude? I'm grateful for God (TRUTH and ALL VIRTUES) and that I have such a perfect abstract archetype encompassing all that is GOOD (expressly TRUTH and ALL VIRTUES) on which to call upon as well as model myself after in word and deed to the best of my ability given time-space coordinates and other environmental factors. So, one thing I do when I feel tempted to hate at all, which does happen, is think of 5 things or try to list 5 things I like about the tempters or temptresses tempting me to hate. And, when I've done that I feel grateful for my soft heart because it helps keep me from becoming corrupted even when truth and love have teamed up for team "Wrath looks really good right now" and honest reason and Anne Frank like resolve says, "let's examine further because everyone should recognize hate doesn't end well for anyone."

Some will say the definition of gratitude comes from the Latin root *gratus* which means to recognize pleasure and be thankful for it. That sounds like it could be misinterpreted by the vicious to suggest being as hedonistic as humanly possible and thankful that you can afford that lifestyle without too much worry about the moral implications or social impact it may have on society. The virtuous take pleasure in being honest and virtuous aka Good or Godly. So, those of us who are virtuous or committed to practicing honesty and all the virtues to the best of our ability understand gratitude in terms of virtuous acts and ultimately God or the perfected abstract archetype(s) of Truth and All the Virtues. So, we are grateful when we see virtue in others and recognize that with "Namaste" or sometimes just as a result of understanding as Priest John Ball inspired by Jesus Christ taught that all human beings are created equal and are equal in the eyes of God. So, if you are Godly you will show equal and mutual respect to all or the same respect you

expect to be shown if you want to get technical about how one might interpret the Golden Rule. Again, if you are vicious and claim to be Christian then you are in fact stating that you wish others to treat you viciously. Now, if you are vicious and Christian, you'd accept that as the truth. If you are vicious and deny that truth, you are not a Christian but a liar and hypocrite.

But, are there times when good is hidden inside something atrocious? Has anyone who has tempted you to hate ever given you reason to be thankful because they sabotaged themselves resulting in your having compassion for them and seeing the humor of it a little? Did you then see how a lot of what they do is self-sabotage and did that help humanize them for you so you could maintain your virtue?

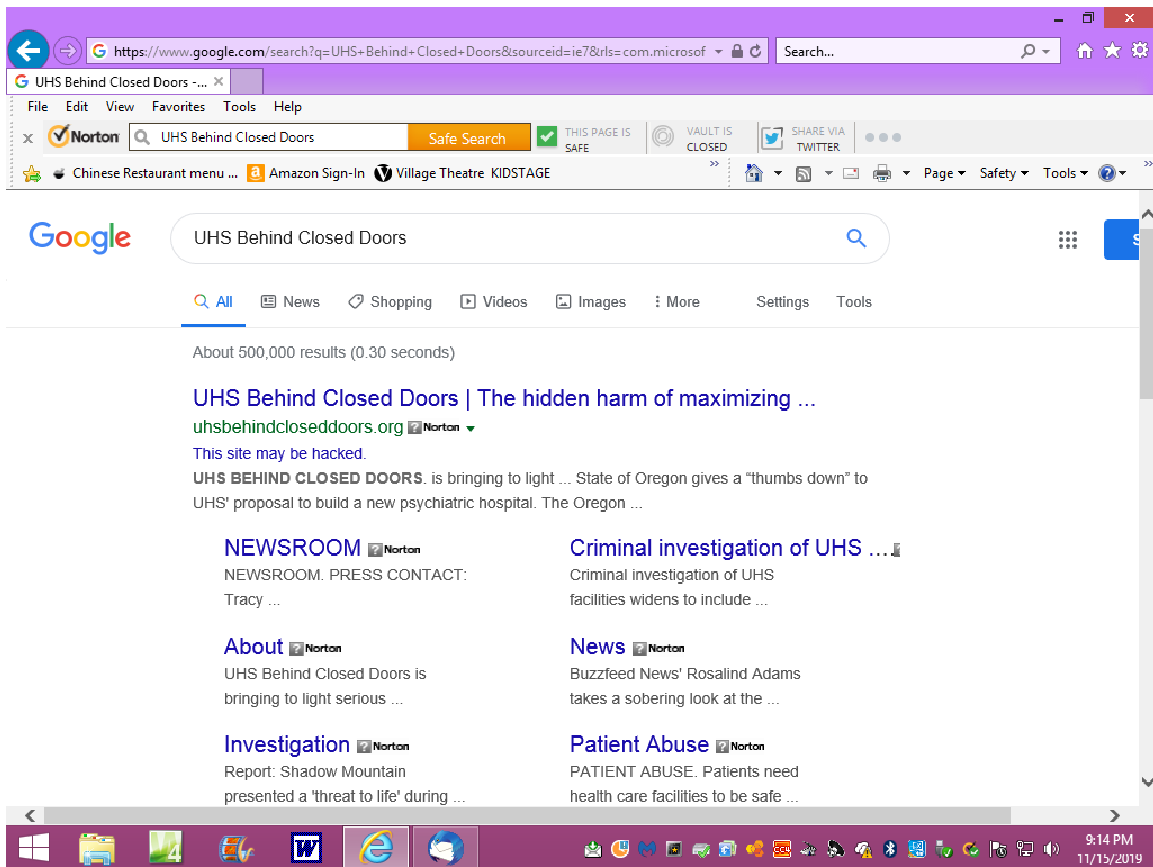
Many of you know the HEAL Mission of COPE is almost always at odds with those enrolled in our Conversion Program/on the False Prophet Watch-List. But, even though passionate, I listen to everyone and have a sense of humor even if I at times act like a "battle axe" or as if stuck on "Fight Mode". And, I think anyone who isn't stuck on "Fight Mode" some of the time, who is a civilian first responder assisting victims of crimes including rape, fraud, and human trafficking, is a rookie and doesn't yet live with trauma firsthand so may judge any hyper-vigilance as unprofessional where later they realize it is totally normal given the life experiences of those who get a little "uppity" sometimes. Why would I be grateful for those on the False Prophet Watch-List at all? It's not who they are or the intention behind what they did, but, what they actually did resulting in reinforcing and protecting this mission and church. I'm going to list 5 things those on the watch-list and/or associations including members on the watch-list have done that have benefited the HEAL Mission of COPE and I can almost guarantee they regret not having thought it through or not having done the right thing, if not, I know they should and that makes me smile:

1. Strangely enough, I'm grateful to all on the watch-list for giving me a greater understanding and appreciation of the US Justice System. There is a debate in the prison reform movement about whether treatment is better than prison for the prisoners and society. I believe treatment should always be with fully informed consent and totally voluntary with the option to choose prison at any time should the treatment not be as described particularly in private sector run settings with no oversight where communications are monitored/censored with the legal basis being it is for the health of the prisoner/patient that such communication with the outside world be restricted with the deciding party being the "treatment team". Since many treatment settings are in fact human trafficking fronts, switching from publicly run prisons with public oversight to private "treatment settings" where the "treatment team" has absolute power over the patients/prisoners who can be held indefinitely on grounds of not being "well" yet is much worse than a definite sentence under any social contract theory of Justice. The COPE Conversion Program/Watch-List is a virtual "old school" penitentiary from my perspective. Below is a table with a comparison of the worst private treatment/conversion environments and the US Justice System/Public Prisons:

"Treatment"/"Conversion" Programs	Public Prisons
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<p>Dehumanize and label patients insane or incompetent with in-house reviews not subject to public oversight.</p>	<p>Treat everyone equal under social contract theory where the laws apply equally to everyone and it is like any agreement or contract though amendable because that's how America likes it and we recognize fallibility and wish to represent everyone. So, anyone can commit and be found guilty of a crime and everyone with ability to understand does understand that Offense (Violation of Law) + Proof Beyond Reasonable Doubt + Conviction = Penalty with specified or definite terms explained and full due process guaranteed unless forfeited via plea deal.</p>
<p>Human trafficking and/or forced labor without oversight and without requirement to compensate wards/patients or who can do the whole "company store" thing and jack up prices so the patients are always in a debt peonage loop without access to report through any public chain of command due to overseers at the program.</p>	<p>Almost identical in some cases with treatment/conversion, but, at least with prisons you know the people were convicted beyond a reasonable doubt of a crime and the law permits for their paying any debt to society through forced labor. Are you upset if Bernie Madoff who bankrupted many through fraud has to work to pay restitution and won't be let out unless he's fully repaid it? Context matters. Don't be a hypocrite.</p>
<p>Dehumanize until a "treatment team" subjectively determines that the patient has conformed and isn't just faking being "normal"/"healthy" to get released.</p>	<p>Never dehumanizes. You did the crime, now do the time. Just like with Hockey, you break the rules, you get the penalty box. But, no one is dehumanizing Wayne Gretzky for spending any time in a penalty box and he's considered to have good sportsmanship and regularly discourages fighting in the NHL. (Ignorance does though and that's why some people still support the left column.)</p>
<p>Arbitrary often undisclosed rules or regulations where extremely subjective and arguably sadistic judgment is used to determine whether a violation occurred where no teaching of the rules/regulations has been done verbally or even by example effectively and any failure to conform results in excessive punishment often involving what legally constitutes torture.</p>	<p>Disclosed rules, laws, and regulations governing everyone where even those in charge of making judgment calls answer to higher authorities and the public for violating any rules, laws, and regulations themselves where such violations can reasonably be reported because of public oversight.</p>

2. I specifically am grateful that NATSAP (National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs) revealed itself and UHS Inc by committing libel against me and the HEAL Mission as a result of something reported to them by UHS of Provo Canyon that was false. In the December, 2011 NATSAP publication titled "THE YOUTH ADVOCATE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF THERAPEUTIC SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS BULLETIN" on page 3, I and the mission were victims of libel per se. UHS falsely accused us of hacking them when they actually hacked us or someone using a computer at one of their properties' IPs traced to them according to the FBI off-the-record. More recent evidence that reinforces that belief is with the SEIU (our mission has been cooperatively working with SEIU) site exposing UHS Inc showing it was hacked or may have been hacked too:



I'm grateful for the opportunity to expose NATSAP's/UHS's deception and suppose the gratitude goes mostly to the US Constitution, namely First Amendment. And, the Truth is NATSAP repeatedly admits to incompetence and not intentional deceit. UHS Inc admits to fraud by taking plea deals constantly on those charges and then says they aren't changing their ways: " Universal Health Services' stock price soared Friday on news that the investor-owned hospital chain had reached a preliminary \$127 million civil settlement with the federal government over a false claims investigation that has stretched on for years... Meanwhile, BuzzFeed began posting articles in December 2016 about UHS' mistreatment of behavioral health patients, describing a pattern of involuntary admissions in cases where it allegedly was not justified to increase reimbursement..."The devil will

be in the details as to how onerous and how closely the outside organization will be monitoring their business practices," McGovern said. For his part, Filton said he thinks the relief from having to pay legal fees will help fund the cost of compliance with the agreement. He also said he does not expect the government will force UHS to make major changes to its operations..." Source: <https://www.modernhealthcare.com/legal/uhs-stock-price-up-more-10-after-127m-doj-settlement-news>

3. I'm actually grateful that David Bolthouse (Envoy Group) and Craig Rogers have both been open to communicating even though we heartily disagree with each other and do not budge on our positions when communicating. I've asked Bolthouse if he is willing to negotiate to take down [healonline.org/bolthouse.htm](http://www.healonline.org/bolthouse.htm) if I agree to take down <http://www.healonline.org/bolthouse.htm> . The issue is Bolthouse is a marketing agent doing the bidding of those for whom he does marketing and while he's the messenger for them, he's not in charge per se of the messaging. So, with this situation I meditate on whether it is truly fair to Bolthouse to have the page up when he's just doing his job or was at the time and no longer claims any authority over [healonline.org/bolthouse.htm](http://www.healonline.org/bolthouse.htm) stating that's between me and Envoy Group now. And, Craig Rogers is an ex-felon (convicted of trafficking) who has alleged that I'm a terrorist and likened me to Al Qaeda and/or the Taliban because I side with Nevada, Utah, Virginia, and Mexican authorities in finding Abundant Life Academy fraudulent, abusive, violates human rights of those enrolled, and in my eyes amounts to child trafficking. Similar programs including Blessed Hope Boys Academy aka The Joshua Home have been shut down where the owners are facing child trafficking charges in Texas. I appreciate their recognition of my humanity enough to discuss it even if heatedly at times when we do interact.

4. I'm grateful that Sacred Breath Academy does everything wrong they possibly can in every way and is so hateful in all communications with me because it gives me the evidence needed to help reveal to the world what they are really like and why that cult should be avoided and belongs on the False Prophet Watch-List. If you don't see the self-sabotage or evidence of that, spend more time at <http://www.healonline.org/breathless.htm> , <http://www.heal-online.org/sbajester.htm> , <http://www.healonline.org/sean.htm> , and don't miss the full original exchange before the hearing in July, 2019 at <http://www.heal-online.org/fullsbaexchange.pdf> . See, they've been harassing me very obviously for approximately 2 years now while accusing me of that and trying to set me up because they know I care for one of their recruits and fear for anyone subjected to that cult or their practices. But, it really helps when liars are openly and obviously malicious, deceptive, and vicious. So, as far as liars go, that one is easier to identify.

5. I appreciate the part those on the watch-list had in inspiring how to run such a watch-list/conversion program. But for their examples, I'd not have adopted this approach to solving the problem that is fraud, cults, and human trafficking in the guise of academic, healthcare, and/or spiritual services. And, I see how even the virtual model we employ, with only one requirement for release, combines both the subjective judgments of the "treatment/conversion" model programs and the objective judgments of the Justice system. The basis for enrollment or placement of a program/cult/etc on the watch-list or in the COPE/HEAL Mission Conversion Program is initially mostly subjective with some

objective corroborating evidence at times just like the "treatment/conversion" program standards for accepting enrollments without a court order or due process. But, once enrolled, no communications blackouts and they can also contact me or the mission to discuss placement or plead their case for why they don't belong while responding to the arguments in favor of their placement. Our team also actively does research for the sake of the whole truth and justice and corroborates the statements of the Sponsors (Victims) at times while at other times finding reason to release a program after further review even if they've not met the "Honesty In Marketing Standards" to be moved to the arguable "white list" we've created but have not yet populated with graduates. But, there is no level system. You are either free (out of sight and mind), enrolled or placed on the watch-list, or you've graduated to the "white list" where not part of the church fellowship or missionary team. Plus, easy to ignore a church and/or mission website regardless of content and not the same as falsely imprisoning someone in a material way that is actionable at law when reported in a timely fashion and the captivity violates due process rights of those falsely imprisoned. So, as upsetting as it is to some to be in the virtual and artful conversion program or on the watch-list, maybe that's their own reflection they dislike most and in that way maybe they'll recognize it and that will be their first step away from hypocrisy and towards honest living. That's a reason to hope for which I'm grateful.

You may have read through all 5 and might think you hate everyone you've just read about including me a little. Well, here's your chance to come up with 5 things to like about everyone you just felt tempted to hate to help keep your heart soft while still exercising honest reason and being as objective as possible. All you need to do is think of 5 things you like at all about anyone or anything you are tempted to hate. See if that little #TaoFu exercise of patience and due diligence with a loving heart helps you manage Wrath too. That's my prayer for everyone this week and I hope it helps.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32 KJV Willful blindness is an abomination.

COPE accepts Feedback, critical and complimentary. Learn more at <http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.church/feedback.htm>. For the sake of keeping myself and others humble, a sense of humor is welcome on all sides.

For More About COPE and the HEAL Mission, see:

<http://www.churchofphilosophicalexploration.church> and <http://www.heal-online.org>