

Jessica Flores
Learning Experience: 2C
4-MAT#1: Fenelon
June 4, 2023

A) Abstract Summary:

This reading consists of spiritual wisdom that was passed on to others in letters by Fenelon. Fenelon was a spiritual advisor. The wisdom shared has and continues to teach Christians today. Fenelon, speaks on the importance of simplicity, moving away from self-love and being charitable. Fenelon emphasizes that he practices what he teaches to model what he counsels others to do.

Other lessons taught in the reading are there is virtue in our suffering. Christians are to voluntarily die to the self and submit to God's plan. Fenelon speaks of obtaining peace, by not listening to our imagination which leads us to plentiful activity. This abundance of activity is not good for our health and brings dryness to our souls. To hear God's "soft and tender tones" you need to still the mind. To Fenelon, inner peace comes with a humble mind.

Fenelon teaches the one thing we are to intently focus on is our effort to obedience to the Trinity. This blind obedience despite of what you know in the natural will facilitate in "the rivers of living water flowing according to God's promise." To have peace do not depend on the self, surrender your will to God, stay humble and confess your sins.

Fenelon speaks about a pure faith that only sees God, is anxious for nothing because God's children shall not lack any good thing. Fenelon goes on to teach that when one is corrected and there is a sting it is a sign that we need the correction. True love is steady and the same towards others due to humility and not thinking of the self, that which is contrary to this truth must be cut out.

B) Concrete Stories and Memories Evoked by Reading:

As I read Fenelon, the lessons God revealed to me, this past year, were confirmed. A memory from last year was evoked. The memory was when God released me from my former employment. I remember hearing the words of my lead jokingly disregard the work that I so earnestly attempted to perform with excellence, in front of the entire staff. The words felt like a dagger to my heart, and I knew there was still much healing that needed to take place in my heart. God allowed this experience to shine light and moved me to act. I went to God for healing of my impure heart and repented. God reiterated the most important thing is not the works of my hands but in abiding in God's presence allowing Him to heal and transform me. God reminded me of the importance of humility, and to stop being led by my imagination into much activity.

During this season I went to God for healing, and I processed my pain with trusted Godly counsel. In God's presence I felt the dagger removed from my heart. I was again able to feel joy and forgiveness for myself and the one who hurt me. I was able to talk to my lead and verbalize what had been taking place in my heart and God worked in our relationship for the better. Upon feeling God's fullness and love towards myself and my lead, I also heard God give me the release to submit my resignation. Leaving did not make sense, because I was comfortable in my place of employment, especially since I had experienced reconciliation. Additionally, I did not have another offer. Fenelon speaks on trusting God whole heartily despite of what we see in the natural and that is what I did in this situation. I had faith that I would not lack anything, and God would provide. Upon resignation, God performed the miraculous, the very next day after I submitted my resignation, I received a job offer that put me on a trajectory in alignment with my calling. God opened a door where I can build

Jessica Flores
Learning Experience: 2C
4-MAT#1: Fenelon
June 4, 2023

emotionally whole leaders, be involved in work around changing systemic policy towards restorative justice, social justice and Christ centered policy.

C) Reflection Questions:

Some questions that arose as I read were what would be the best way to lead someone in having peace despite imperfections while allowing God to transform us and what would that look like in a teaching curriculum? Another question which arose is how do we lead others to become more unquestioning and simpler in their desires?

D) Action:

With the information learned my plan is to be intentional about living a simpler life, one that is not cluttered with stuff and things to do. The purchases I make will be based on need, not want. I will seek inner peace, by trusting God, surrendering and being mindful of the motives behind my behaviors. Choosing behaviors and assignments which I know are prompted by the Holy Spirit.

I will ask for forgiveness and have grace for myself and others when we fall short. I will in turn seek to not pass harsh judgement when I see the shortcomings of others, myself included and see how I can partner with God to do His will.

I will be mindful to identify the good things in my life and be thankful for these gifts. At night I will journal three things that I am grateful for that took place that day. I will keep a journal of this journey for reflection. I will surrender my diet and health to God letting Him lead my decisions around my nutrition and exercise. I have found that my health and diet have been difficult for me to surrender. Throughout the day I work, serve and do not take time to cook a healthy meal. This routine leaves me with the option of grabbing something fast that does not require time to prepare and is not the healthiest option. Fenelon points out that we are not to think of the self and love others. How am I loving others if I continue to shorten my life span by the dietary choices, I make daily. The virtues and biblical truths learned in Fenelon and mentioned here will be put into practice for approximately sixty-three days to allow these behaviors to become a habit. I currently have groups that have been entrusted to me to oversee in ministry and will have them join me on this journey. Helping them identify areas in their life where they would benefit from these teachings and practices.

The goal will be to model these virtues, biblical truths and a disciplined life to impact others. I will seek out ways to incorporate the biblical truths found in Fenelon in the trainings I create for others. In the teachings there will be testimony around what took place as we put these teachings into practice during the sixty-three-day period. The aim will be to create biblical curriculums and workshops that will lead Christian believers to seek God to know Him intimately. To help others learn of the impacts that culture and media play on instilling the message, that you are what you do, and the more you have the happier you will be. Teachings on simplicity, humility, forgiveness and surrender will be incorporated in the curriculums. The aim is to see transformed lives. The sixty-three-day period was intentionally incorporated in the teaching to help build lasting habits of biblical living in the everyday life of the believer.