

How can we express our God-given dominion and joy when we are going through a phase of feeling deeply betrayed or rejected by someone we love?

A: I love the fact that the way this question has been framed suggests the key to its answer: “our God-given dominion and joy.” Betrayal or rejection by someone we love is a difficulty we may all face, at least in some modest way, but it offers the opportunity to embrace that person and even ourselves in a more spiritual light that leads to healing.

In the Bible, Jacob and Esau faced such a situation in their relationship. After years of estrangement, Jacob was divinely impelled to reconnect with his brother. Before meeting each other again, Jacob prayed all night, and that prayer revealed his true, divine character in such a way that his human nature was transformed. The next day, when he ran to meet his brother, he said to him, “I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me” (Genesis 33:10).

Jacob saw his brother not as a mortal personality; he saw in him something of the divine, having the “face”—expressing the countenance and nature—of God, Soul. And his brother, seen as a spiritual child of God, could only see him in the same light and thus be pleased with him. In that moment, the previous discord was changed into the sweet music of Soul, harmony, and brotherly love.

As with Jacob, isn’t it *our* concept of the individual and of ourselves that needs healing, and not so much the other person’s? What needs to be lifted off is a mortal, personal sense of that individual that says he can be dishonest, cold, and indifferent, and the notion that we can be hurt.

In our prayer, sometimes we discover shortcomings in our own character that need correcting. Through the understanding of Soul, Spirit, we discern our God-designed nature, and our neighbor’s, as holy and pure, as motivated by Love and Truth. Because Soul is infinite and indivisible, we all reflect this Soul-sense, this spiritual understanding, and so we all perceive, hear, feel, as Soul does. Soul perceives its creation as perfectly good! Wasn’t it this Soul-sense that Jacob exercised in his prayer? And isn’t it this Soul-sense that assures us that we and all are loved, cherished, complete, and related to others in harmony?

You asked how to express your God-given dominion in this situation. Exercising your Soul-sense, your God-given spiritual understanding, enables you to do just that. The word *dominion* comes from

the Latin root word *domus*, or house. *Dominus* is the master of a house. So dominion could be seen as having a mastery of all the ideas included in your “house,” or consciousness.

Having dominion, you have a clear perception of all the spiritual qualities and characteristics that distinguish each idea, each son or daughter, of God, Mind. You thus include in your consciousness the right, divine idea of your friend. Since you have a Soul-defined concept of who this dear one is, if you meet with betrayal or rejection, you can exercise your dominion. You can see that those traits don't match up with what you know is true about this individual, and thus dismiss that false picture.

What a beautiful gift of dominion we all have! That “other person” also has dominion, and therefore can perceive, appreciate, and rejoice in all the wonderful qualities you reflect as God's child. There is no room for betrayal or rejection there! So our prayer includes the idea that no one can see us except as Soul sees us, and we can't see anyone else except as Soul sees them, for there is only one source of perception—God.

And isn't joy a quality of God? The joy you express is not personal, coming from you, nor is it a result of another person's attention; it originates in Soul, which you naturally and invariably reflect. It is Soul's expression of delight in each of its ideas. Therefore, your happiness is not dependent on circumstances and people, but on your eternal oneness with Soul, the source of all joy.

The human situation is no more than our perception of it; it is not reality. So, as our Soul-sense is exercised, we naturally embrace the divine union of all God's ideas that is already established, and find peace. Yes, right there in the midst of betrayal or rejection, we are free to exercise our dominion and joy right now. This can certainly lead to a restoration of harmony—but we don't need to wait for that to happen before we experience dominion and joy!