

Being and Giving Matthew 22:37-40

“What we are in ourselves and what we give to others, makes us a complete whole.”

- LETTERS AND PAPERS FROM PRISON

True life means that we should not be selfish or self-effacing. We cannot just live for ourselves, and we cannot live for others in such a way that we lose our own identity and direction. True life has to express itself in a self-assertion that is a free response of gratitude to God and which seeks the well-being of the other. Life is always a rhythm of being and becoming.

THOUGHT

*If I withhold myself from the joy of giving,
I will shrivel and die; if I lose myself in
giving to others, I will abandon myself to
extinction, but if I give while I am also a
recipient, I will continue to live and give.*

From *Seize the Day* with Dietrich Bonhoeffer by Charles Ringma