

**DAILY EXERCISES**  
**WEEK TWO/DAY SEVEN**

Theme: *Strongest vs. Deepest Desires*

**MORNING EXERCISES**

*Today: Now that you have once again experienced the various aspects of the daily exercises 'in slow motion,' today is a day to consider engaging creatively with the entire spiritual exercise program. Notice how the different parts of the exercises slot together as a guide for your day. Don't be concerned so much about completing each part but find your own rhythm in seeing how the morning reflection/intention, mid-day exercise and end of the day examen can support a more conscious, gentle awareness throughout a day. Finally, notice the final suggestions called Points for Tomorrow as tomorrow begin a new week of Exercises and different area of focus.*

**REFLECTION JOURNAL ASSIGNMENT**

*At the end of each week, you are asked to reflect back on your experiences of The Exercises with a simple journal entry. At the conclusion of the fourth week of the month, you will collate your weekly journal notes into one monthly reflection paper.*

*Here are a few guidelines for your weekly recorded journal notes:*

*-Please respond to these two focus questions:*

*How/were The Exercises insightful for you this week?*

*Where could I use support/guidance?*

*-Keep your replies brief to about one paragraph for each question (word processed)*

*-Please share in a meaningful way but aware that your notes will be read by a mentor; if you would like to request a personal conversation with your mentor, please indicate that in your paper.*

*-At month's end you will compile and submit an email with all four end-of-the-week reflections as one Journal 'assignment.' Details will be forthcoming during your fourth week of The Exercises.*

**1. WISDOM FROM THE SPIRITUAL EXERCISES**

*Take a few moments to quiet your mind and welcome the following teaching.*

For Ignatius, the whole movement of the Exercises could be summed up in three Latin words: "*Id, Quod Volo.*" Translated as "That which (*volo*) I decide," and "That which I will." The word *volo* can mean both. The invitation in the Exercises is about recognizing and aligning my desires or sorting out my desires to align them with the choices that are most life giving.

Jack Kennedy

## 2. QUESTIONS FOR DISCERNMENT

*Consider journaling for today by noting 'what arises in you' as you consider any of these questions for discernment:*

- Accept the invitation to name "that which you deeply desire" at this time in life?
- Identify both a strongest desire and a deepest desire... what is the difference between the two?
- What could 'aligning your desires with choices that are most lifegiving' mean for you?

## 3. ENNEAGRAM INSIGHT

*Simply observe how the following Enneagram insight complements today's teachings.*

We grow in spiritual freedom when we become more aware of our disordered attachments that get in the way of Love. At the same time we are truly free when we recognize that everything belongs, even what we might consider to be objectionable and wrong.

Richard Rohr, The Enneagram as Wisdom Teacher

## 4. ENNEAGRAM AWARENESS

*Spend a few minutes with today's Enneagram insights; consider making a journal entry which you could return to at the end of the day.*

- Read the RELEASES of your Ennea-Style in Enneagram Transformations (cf. Enneagram References #3).
- Which of the RELEASES may offer insight into your strongest and deepest desires?

## 5. DEVOTIONAL READINGS: Making Choices

*Choose one of the following passages and one of its points for reflection as a way to enter into a period of prayerful intention. This is not so much a time for analysis but for reflection. Choose whatever form of devotional prayer or meditation you like to complement the passages. Always end your reflection time with a moment of gratitude and 'savoring.'*

### SCRIPTURE OPTION A

*From the Hebrew Scriptures:* See, that every day are set before you choices between life and prosperity, death and adversity... choose what is life-giving so that you and those you love may live. Deuteronomy 30: 15-19

### REFLECTION POINTS:

- Consider how this passage may speak to you today.
- What kind of choices do you sense are on the horizon of your life?
- Offer gratitude for having chosen life in all the ways you do so.

## POETRY OPTION

*From the Sufi poet, Rumi: Your task is not to seek after love, but merely to seek and find all the barriers within yourself that you have built against it. Collection IV*

## REFLECTION POINTS:

- Consider how your self-created barriers undermine your need for love.
- Recall a time when you allowed love to take down all barriers?
- Offer gratitude for the most precious loves of your life.

## 6. INTENTION FOR THE DAY

Make an intention to notice your desires today—all of them, without judgment. Try just to notice and not judge. Notice if the Reflection Reading adds additional insight for your intention.

## MID DAY EXERCISES

(5-10 minutes)

### 1. MINI-EXAMEN: HOLY NOTICING

*Take a few quiet moments to remember your intention for the day about the importance of paying attention to your desires.*

- Is there an observation from the morning worth noting?
- Renew your intention for the remainder of the day:
- Notice the kinds of desires that keep showing up for you today. Try just to notice and not judge.

### 2. GRATITUDE

*Identify at least one experience so far today for which you are grateful*

- Breathe a prayer of gratitude for a few minutes. Recall the saying of Meister Eckhart: "If the only prayer I ever uttered was thank you, that would be enough."
- You might try a traditional spiritual breath practice of inhaling on the count of three and breathing out on the count of six. Try this for about one minute.

## END-OF-THE-DAY EXERCISES

### 1. THE EXAMEN

*The daily Examen is the heart of the Spiritual Exercises. This is an opportunity to take a long, loving look back over your day where, 'We recognize the Beloved in the nitty gritty of life and we bring the nitty gritty back to the Beloved.' This exercise is an examination of consciousness (clear awareness) NOT an examination of conscience*

*focused on faults and failings. By being faithful to this practice and journaling your insights, patterns will emerge over thirty days including awareness from your unconscious that would normally have been missed in everyday activity.*

*Take a few moments to quiet your mind before starting the end of the day examen. Consider returning to the simple breathing exercise described on R15 of your online site resources.*

**-The EXAMEN should take about fifteen minutes. During this reflection time, you can use the following five R's to help guide your time:**

**REQUEST** the presence of Spirit (however you imagine it) to lead you through the review of the day

**RELISH** the moments that went well and gifts received today

**REVIEW** (walk back through your day) using the suggested focus questions as your guide. Consider what it would be like to talk to God about this or someone whom you love.

**FOCUS QUESTIONS FOR TODAY'S EXAMEN:**

- Where/when did I experience a strong desire today?
- Where/when did I experience a deep desire today?
- Can I sense a difference between these desires?

**REPENT** for any mistakes or failures by simply acknowledging them without drama or self-loathing. If you feel called to *at-one-ment* with another, the Beloved or yourself, note that desire for whenever an appropriate time arises.

**RESOLVE** with a concrete intention to live tomorrow consciously and freely.

## **2. DISCERNMENT JOURNAL**

*Without a daily journal it would not be possible to track the sometimes subtle spiritual movements in every day experiences. Spend a few minutes making entries that reflect today's experiences and learnings. Here everything belongs, both the gifts and the challenges.*

## **3. POINTS FOR NEXT WEEK**

*The Spiritual Exercises recommend that, before retiring, we consider the spiritual geography for the next day. As we settle into deeper rest we prepare our unconscious*

*for the next day's exercises. This is not a time for study and analysis but a gentle pointer towards our next movement and direction.*

**WEEK TWO THEME:**

**Listening to the Still Voice Within**

**WISDOM FROM IGNATIAN SPIRITUALITY:**

**To trust your affective experiences and desires**

**ENNEAGRAM TEACHING:**

**We grow in spiritual freedom when we become more aware of disordered attachments that get in the way of love. The 'work' is to re-member and affirm our essential gift and goodness.**