



|||PRAYING OUT |||AHEAD

Sally just got a promotion -- well, sort of a promotion.

Actually she was put in charge of one of the most difficult departments of her company. The employees in this department acted as though they were a gift to the company. Furthermore, they were confident that the wisdom they brought to the table exempted them from the kinds of rules other departments operated under.

There was the usual negative reaction when Sally began to change “the way we have always done it.” It was not the decisions per se that they reacted to so much as the fact that someone from a different department, who had less education than they did, was now telling them how to do their job better.

Within a week, however, they were seeing the wisdom of Sally’s strategies and were beginning to embrace the newer methodologies.

The Mesmerizing Spirit

This demonic entity seeks to define what people focus on. Many of you have experienced introducing a great idea at work only to have the focus remain on the “cost” of the ideas, months after it is obvious to you that the idea has produced a huge benefit to the company.

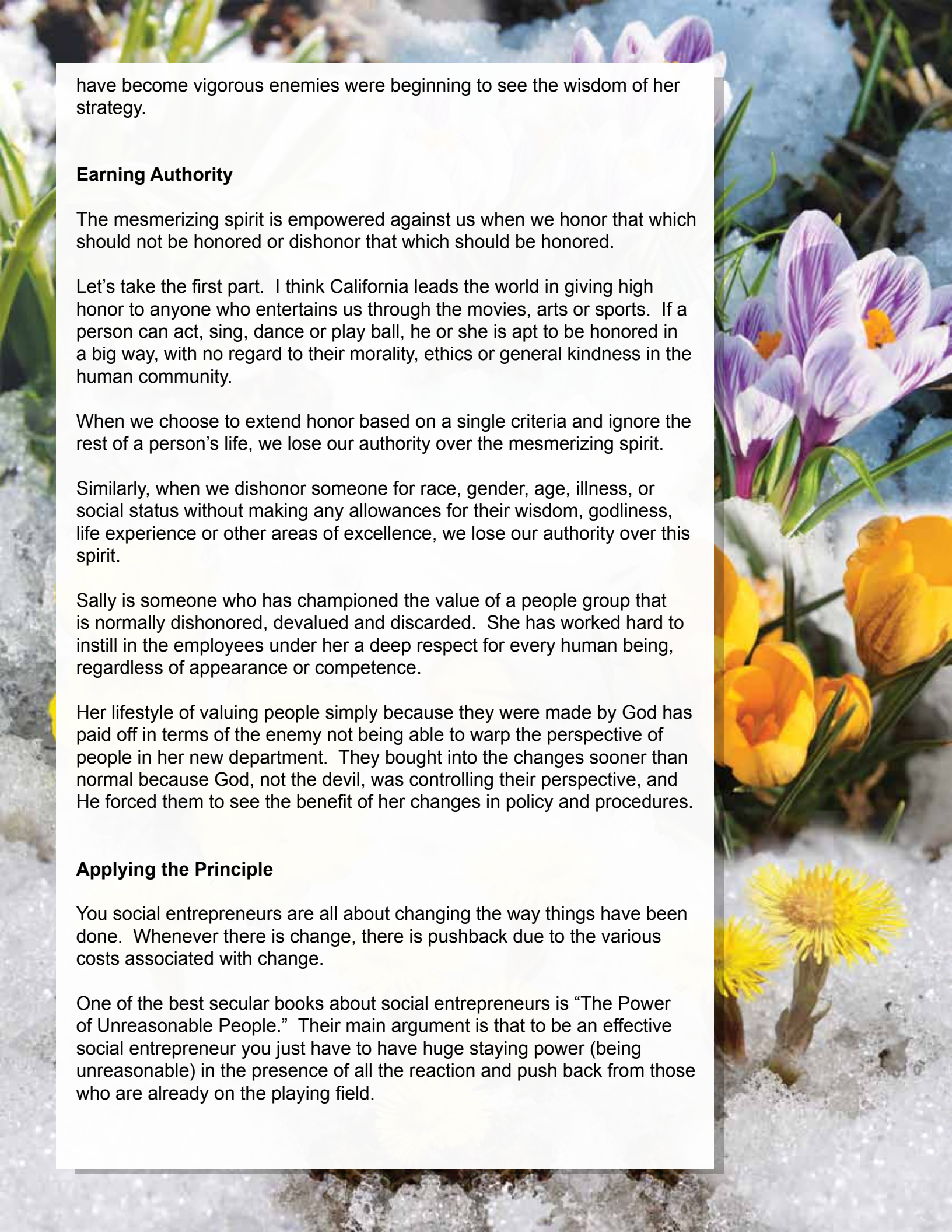
This is the injustice produced by the mesmerizing spirit.

So often the way we and our ideas are seen has no relevance to reality. It does not matter that we have “proven” the value of the idea. The demonic realm can keep those around us from seeing that value. They remain fixated on the pain caused by the change.

Sally’s Authority

Clearly in Sally’s case, there was an entrenched bureaucracy. They were in control, were being inefficient and liked the way things were. In the natural, there should have been a battle of wills for months over who had the last say. One would have expected her to have to fire two or three intransigent ring leaders in order to send a message to the rest of the staff that her authority was not to be challenged.

That was not necessary because Sally walks in high authority over the mesmerizing spirit. Because of her personal lifestyle, she was able to block that strategy of the enemy, and within a week, people who could



have become vigorous enemies were beginning to see the wisdom of her strategy.

Earning Authority

The mesmerizing spirit is empowered against us when we honor that which should not be honored or dishonor that which should be honored.

Let's take the first part. I think California leads the world in giving high honor to anyone who entertains us through the movies, arts or sports. If a person can act, sing, dance or play ball, he or she is apt to be honored in a big way, with no regard to their morality, ethics or general kindness in the human community.

When we choose to extend honor based on a single criteria and ignore the rest of a person's life, we lose our authority over the mesmerizing spirit.

Similarly, when we dishonor someone for race, gender, age, illness, or social status without making any allowances for their wisdom, godliness, life experience or other areas of excellence, we lose our authority over this spirit.


Sally is someone who has championed the value of a people group that is normally dishonored, devalued and discarded. She has worked hard to instill in the employees under her a deep respect for every human being, regardless of appearance or competence.

Her lifestyle of valuing people simply because they were made by God has paid off in terms of the enemy not being able to warp the perspective of people in her new department. They bought into the changes sooner than normal because God, not the devil, was controlling their perspective, and He forced them to see the benefit of her changes in policy and procedures.

Applying the Principle

You social entrepreneurs are all about changing the way things have been done. Whenever there is change, there is pushback due to the various costs associated with change.

One of the best secular books about social entrepreneurs is "The Power of Unreasonable People." Their main argument is that to be an effective social entrepreneur you just have to have huge staying power (being unreasonable) in the presence of all the reaction and push back from those who are already on the playing field.

A background image of several bright yellow flowers, possibly ranunculus, with many petals and prominent centers, set against a light, textured background.

And I am sure the authors are right -- when they are dealing in the natural and are fighting against the powers of darkness which preChristians are not equipped to deal with.

But the beauty of being a Christian social entrepreneur is that we have an incredibly unfair advantage over the others since we can bring the power of God to bear on the process of change.

So think through the area of the culture that you have been called to change. Weigh the human dynamic of people generally not wanting to pay a price now in order to have a better world tomorrow. Look squarely at the probability of people considering you an upstart who has no "right" (other than a commission by Almighty God, the Lord of all Cultures) to change the way things have always been done.

Then calmly set all those obstacles aside and cover them with two words: "But God..."

Starting Now

It often takes 90 days for there to be a significant shift in a large segment of the culture when we are fighting the mesmerizing spirit. Since we are about 90 days away from the **STARTING RIGHT** conferences in June which will empower social entrepreneurs, why don't you start a daily prayer campaign **now** so that you will not have to battle what others have in the past?

On a daily basis, ask God to bind the mesmerizing spirit so it has no control over what people see and how they interpret what they see.

Then ask God to shine His light wherever He wants to shine it in that sector of the culture and to hold it there so no man can deny the reality of what He is showing them.

When God defines what people see instead of the mesmerizing spirit, you will have that unfair advantage over other social entrepreneurs.

That two part prayer can make a huge difference in the playing field when you return home from the conference, ready to Start Right.

And by the way -- do check out who you honor and dishonor! Your prayer will be pointless if your values are not God's values.

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