

True devotion is to lead a divine life by dedicating oneself to the Lotus Feet of the Lord, without swerving from the path of righteousness or "Swadharma" - one's own duty in life, based on a firm faith in the Lord's assurance in the Bhagavad Gita that "My devotee will never perish" ("na mae bhaktah pranasyathi").

True devotion is to engage oneself in constant contemplation, adoration and love of the Lord's greatness and glories as well as singing in praise of his divine sports (leelas) and divine attributes.

The body, senses, mind and intellect do not constitute the reality of man. Man's real nature is Sat-Chit-Ananda (Being-Awareness-Bliss), which is the eternal witness of all these phenomena. Forgetting this true nature of his, man becomes a slave of the highly evanescent material pleasures and pains, and gets himself entrangled in bondage.

Devotion is extremely necessary to recognize man's real nature. This alone is true love.

Discipline

DISCIPLINE is highly essential for this. "Na sreya Niyamam vina" nothing great or worthwhile can be achieved without discipline. A life devoid of discipline will result in wasting the invaluable God-given assets of man like the physical body, its energies and activities and above all, the precious gift of time. Whatever may be the hurdles and hardships, one should strictly and scrupulously adhere to his daily schedule of activities, without any deviation whatsoever. From dawn to dusk, all his activities should be regulated by discipline. Indeed, life itself is bound by discipline. Without discipline, life will lose all meaning and purpose. You can gain the wonderful bliss of life, only when activities like devotional singing (Bhajan), chanting of the divine name (Japa) postures (Asanas), meditation (Dhyana), etc. are practiced in a disciplined manner.

Discrimination

In man, there is a mixture of good and bad, merit (punya) and sin, truth and untruth. Analysing these in a spirit of enquiry, and then renouncing or rejecting selfishness, wickedness, untruth, unrighteousness, hurting others, etc. and accepting or adopting only what is good, truthful, righteous, and helpful to others, is called discrimination (viveka). Such an enquiry should be undertaken not from a selfish view-point but with a divine viewpoint which caters for the

The one who follows the Spirit is the real spiritual seeker.

general good of all, and not for your individual satisfaction or for the satisfaction of others (in whom you are interested). Ego and attachment should not find a place in this.

Determination

There should be no room for doubts of any sort in this regard. One's undertakings should be imbued with strong faith and deep love. There is no place for doubts such as: "Will this happen or not happen? What or how will the result be?" One should not yield to discouragement and frustration or lack of faith and confidence. One should develop self-confidence by asserting that "I can achieve this. I can overcome this". Determination is not possible in the absence of self-confidence. To have determination, one should develop a spirit of dedication to God, self-confidence, a steady mind and strong will-power.

One should not lose self-confidence under any circumstances, - whatever be the obstacles, whatever be the insults, censures and criticisms, and whatever be the losses including even the loss of one's own life. A weak person cannot achieve this. One should strengthen his determination by always relying on the love, kindness and mercy of God, as well as by steadfast adherence to tolerance, fortitude and sympathy. Then only can one attain God. Purity of mind and heart is the oil lamp container: devotion is the oil, intelligence is the wick, self-enquiry is the process of lighting (striking of match-stick) and knowledge or wisdom is the light (Jyoti).

Dedication

It is the duty of every man to give up his sense of ego, pride and attachment, to go beyond physical or mundane thoughts and feelings, to take up metaphysical or spiritual thoughts and feelings, and eventually to recognize the truth that his real Self transcends the body senses, mind and intellect. All egoistic ideas should be completely rooted out. Dedication means giving up one's wrong identification with the body, senses, mind and intellect, and gaining the firm conviction that every thing is God only and moulding one's life according to the Principle of Unity in Divinity. "Ekaatmabhava". It is all ONE without a second. Instead of wasting one's precious time in leading a life devoid of discipline, if one engages himself in God-oriented activities, or even still better, if one reverentially thinks, feels, contemplates and meditates that all work is God's work and if one's actions are free from ego and if one firmly believes with a pure and sincere heart, beyond the shadow of any doubt that every game or play (Aata), every song (Paata), every word (Maata). Indeed everything without any exception whatsoever is God and nothing but God. Then only can it be called dedication.

Love, which is the gift of God, has to be shared with everyone in the world.