

(Need one live, fragrant rose for this message)

Do You Have Change for a Paradigm?

I remember the first time I saw the word “Paradigm.” It was in Steven Covey’s book, “7 Habits of Highly Effective People.” I wondered what kind of word that was: “pair-a-dig-um.” I was able to grasp the meaning of the word by how it was used throughout the chapter I read. It was an odd spelling and I thought it sounded, well, like a “made up” word. I didn’t like it. I didn’t like the book either and never made it past that chapter, but I figure I got what I needed from it: I learned a new word. Pair-a-dig-um—even if I didn’t like the way it was spelled.

It wasn’t until months later I was discussing with my friend of 30 years how I couldn’t comprehend how this author was making a fortune off this boring, overwritten book that used words “no one ever heard of.” She agreed and said she didn’t care for the book either. She then asked me what words I was referring to that “no one ever heard before?” “Well, ‘pair-a-dig-um’” I responded—not really believing she had to ask!

She laughed out loud (only a friend of 30 years can get away with that) and informed me that the word is pronounced “pair-a-dime.” She went on to say that she had frequently heard the word as well as seen it in print numerous times over the last few years. “Oh” was my single word response as I pondered where the heck I’d been that I’d never heard or seen this word that was so familiar to her. Oh well, I justified, she lives in Santa Cruz, California and everything is different there. End of discussion. End of Steven Covey’s book. End of “pair-a-dime.” Or so I thought.

Several weeks later I was sorting through my friend’s clothing in preparation for a yard sale when I found a tee-shirt with the phrase, “*Do You Have Change for a Paradigm?*” I knew it was the perfect title for a sermon and felt confident I had something to say about paradigms!

So, suddenly I like the word. It’s different. It’s fun to say. I still think it’s spelled incorrectly. Why not “p-a-i-r-a-d-i-m-e?” or even “p-a-i-r-a-d-y-m-e?” So I not only learned a new word from reading that chapter in Steven Covey’s

book, it was to become the key word in a sermon I would deliver years later. I got something from his book that probably no else did! Never mind that I missed the point of the book.

I asked myself, *Do you have change for a paradigm?* And pondered just what I was asking myself!

During the past few years I have often proclaimed—most often to my Mother when she doesn't understand my alternative perspectives—“That's not my reality!” She doesn't get it. I don't get how she could not get it. I don't even get what there is to not get. It's simple: I create the reality in which I live. I manifest my world, my life, my experiences based on my perceptions, my reality. Get it? No. She doesn't. She has chosen to work and play in the energies of disappointment, frustration, anger and pain. And, of course, that's okay because it's her choice and she continually manifests experiences to support her choices. It is, however, not *my* reality.

Over a period of several months, I realized there was a pattern in conversations and events in my life. When I notice a pattern—which sometimes is quite a long process in itself—I become open to the reason that pattern exists and look for the information or lesson being presented. The first incident in this particular pattern occurred while I was talking on phone to my Mom.

AUNT CAROL'S WORRY

She starting relating how her sister “worries her self sick”—and she mean literally sick—over her son and daughter, both of whom are in the military. Her son is a high security clearance Green Beret specialist who cannot tell anyone, including his own mother, where he is going, what he will be doing or how long he will be gone. No contact. Isolation tends to cultivate worry. But it doesn't have to! *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

I offered my mother an option to worrying—what about knowing he is safe and that everything that happens is for his highest good? She spouted on about how it is “normal” and “natural” for a mother to worry and that it was my Aunt Carol's “God given right as a mother to do so.” Okay. I tried a different approach and pointed out the negative energy of worry versus knowing that

someone is safe and holding that person in a place of love and light so they can have whatever is for their highest good with no judgment or interference from us. No, thank you! She was determined to fight for my Aunt's right to worry so what I said went right past her into the universal garbage can of rejected ideas. *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

SEPTEMBER 11 – Tragedy/Empathic

Every year the media bombards us with endless reminders and graphic pictures of the September 11th terrorist acts, inviting—and even encouraging us to look at and once again feel the sorrow, the pain, the drama, the trauma and, most of all, the fear. All very real and yet, where is the healing in focusing on media driven trauma and going into fear? Being empathic, I feel other people's feelings, including pain and sorrow, and so I have for over a decade steered clear of all forms of media. The smallest “tidbit” of information on “current events” is sufficient information for most empaths. So, when September 11th comes around each year, I look for ways to honor the event without going into the trauma and fear. I choose to acknowledge this event and the participants—there are no victims, only volunteers—by focusing my attention on healing. I've participated in Christ Force Healing Clinics on September 11 as well as performed personal and, in conjunction with others, group healings. *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

SEPTEMBER 11th – Whole New Meaning – DeLisle's Passing

In 2003, September 11th took on a whole new meaning for me when DeLisle—someone very close and dear to me—made her transition. With the help of friends, I facilitated a personal, in-home memorial service. I believe DeLisle gave me the name for that memorial: *A Celebration of DeLisle*. And so, we did celebrate her by validating and honoring all she was—both light and dark. When I saw September 11th on my 2004 calendar, I realized it now took on a whole new meaning for me. I started to write “DeLisle's Passing – 1 Year Anniversary,” but didn't like the way it sounded, the connotation or the energy. I skipped to October 13 where I was going to mark “DeLisle's 47th Birthday” when I realized there was really no point in recording the birthday of her last incarnation. It now seemed insignificant. I didn't record her birthday on October 13th, but went back to September 11—her date of death—and wrote “DeLisle's First Birthday.” For me, September 11th will always be

DeLisle's birthday. She was born, once again, into her true life as a being. She went home. *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

FRIEND ASKS ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT BLAKE

A friend recently asked me if I was “worried” about Blake, my 22 year old stepson, who is in Iraq. She was stunned when I responded, “No. I honor his choice and know that he is capable of manifesting his reality for his highest good.” She pushed further and hesitantly asked, “What if, you know, he gets badly hurt or even dies?” I responded, “No one dies without their permission. I see choosing when and how one dies as the most personal and ultimate of choices, and I will honor his choices around that as well.” She looked at me with and sighed with exasperation. I asked, *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

TALK WITH BLAKE BEFORE HE LEAVES

I've known Blake, my stepson, since he was six. He didn't live with his Dad and me, but he spent time with us on weekends, holidays and school breaks during the decade his Dad and I were married. Last year, Blake went to Iraq. He's in combat. Mortars. I had the opportunity to spend some time with him and his wife shortly before he left for a year in Iraq. We talked. I asked him how he is doing and how he is feeling about his upcoming adventure.

He said that he is scared and didn't want to go. A few tears rolled down his cheeks as he said he feared for his safety. I reminded him that his safety is not in the United States or in any other country, and that it is not contingent on someone else or any circumstance, but that it is within him and with the God of his heart. He relaxed a little.

He said his Mom was very worried so we had the “worry” energy versus the “knowing” energy talk. I reminded him that he is a capable, resourceful being who is held in love and light. I told him I knew he would find his way. We hugged—a long hug that says not only do I love you, I appreciate and honor you. *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

***One final event before I finally got the message this pattern presented:
AOL – 2 sisters left; 1 dies***

Last year, two sisters came home from Iraq after one died. AOL asked, “*What do you think?*” and invited readers to answer this question by participating in a survey. I blasted at my computer—as if it cared—“What business is it of mine what they do? What business is it of anybody’s what they do? Why would anyone care what they do? It’s a personal decision that impacts their life. No judgment. Why would anyone have an opinion about this at all? Ugh!” *Do you have change for a paradigm?*

That’s Not My Reality!

So, after months of conversations and events that unfolded a pattern, I finally got—on a much deeper level—what I mean when I state, “*That’s not my reality.*”

And I also got how (and why) some people just don’t get it or can’t have it. And, maybe even more importantly, I came to understand how and why some people don’t get it—will probably never get it—and just can’t have it because *It’s just not their reality!*

So, in the end, it became clear to me that I was not at all clear as to who should be asking whom, *Do you have change for a paradigm?*