

*Quickly write one sentence after each of the following:*

1. We are, each and all, God's defective, deprived, damaged, underdeveloped children.
  
2. The defects are hopeless: not being God, we can't create something out of nothing.
  
3. The deprivations are, in their basic effects, irremediable.
  
4. The damage is permanent.
  
5. The underdevelopment is inevitable: we drop dead just about the time we've learned a thing or two.
  
6. Though I am each of the above--defective, deprived, damaged, and underdeveloped--each is only as important as I let it be....
  
7. ....and, thank God, none of these is unyielding to the power God offers me to receive it as a dark gift ("Stop being afraid, little children! God wants to give you the Kingdom!").
  
8. According to the biblical way of seeing and living in the world, God offers me, with all dark gifts (i.e., inner and outer untowardnesses), the Light to see how to make my gift, and the will and the power to make it to the glory of God and the good of the good earth.