



Of Seeds and Flowers



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William R. Pfeiffer – Director

Mary's Field, Ltd. - PO Box 99 - Hebron, CT 06248 - 860.530.1253 - wisdom@marysfield.org

GOD and SCIENCE- TWO FRIENDS, GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER!!

God is BIG AND GETTING BIGGER BY THE DAY as scientists (mostly, Quantum Physicists) are discovering more and more about the VASTNESS and UNITY and the incredibly complex makeup of the world that GOD CREATED! The following is from the Richard Rohr blog of June 25th. Good for the heart and spiritual growth.

“Author and Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor has been writing about the intersection of faith and science for a long time. In this essay, written over twenty years ago, she was already exploring a new cosmology, one that honored her deep understanding of both God and the workings of the universe. She has the courage and conviction to ask hard questions and wrestle with them alongside us. Her insight into God's unifying and enlivening presence has much in common with the mystics. As Franciscan theologian Bonaventure described, God is One "whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere." WOW!!



In Sunday school, Rev. Taylor continues, I learned to think of God as a very old white-bearded man on a throne, who stood above creation and occasionally stirred it with a stick. When I am dreaming quantum dreams, what I see is an infinite web of relationship, flung across the vastness of space like a luminous net. It is made of energy, not thread. As I look, I can see light moving through it as a pulse moves through veins. What I see "out there" is no different from what I feel inside. There is a living hum that might be coming from my neurons but might just as well be coming from the furnace of the stars. When I look up at them there is a small commotion in my bones, as the ashes of dead stars that house my marrow rise up like metal filings toward the magnet of their living kin.

Where am I in this picture? I am all over the place. I am up there, down here, inside my skin and out. I am large compared to a virus and small compared to the sun, with a life that is permeable to them both. Am I alone? How could I ever be alone? I am part of a web that is pure relationship, with energy available to me that has been around since the universe was born. People are made up, the physicist's now have proven, of 99.99999% pure energy; just as is the oak tree.

Where is God in this picture? God is all over the place. God is up there, down here, inside my skin and out. God is the web, the energy, the space, the light-not captured in them, as if any of those concepts were more real than what unites them-but revealed in that singular, vast net of relationship that animates everything that is.

At this point in my thinking, it is not enough for me to proclaim that God is responsible for all this unity. Instead, I want to proclaim that God is the unity-the very energy, the very intelligence, the very elegance and passion that make it all go. This is the God who is not somewhere but everywhere, the God who may be prayed to in all directions at once. This is also the God beyond all directions, who will still be here (wherever "here" means) when the universe either dissipates into dust or swallows itself up again.”

“The physicists are getting things down to the nitty-gritty; they really just about pared things down to the ultimate details, and the last thing they ever expected to happen is happening. God is showing through.... They've been scraping away at physical reality all these centuries, and now the layer of the little bit left that we don't understand is so fine, God is staring us in the face.” John Updike, “Roger's Vision. Three weeks ago, in San Diego, scientists made matter from light.

God said to Abraham, “But for me, you would not be here.” “I know that, Lord,” Abraham answered, “but were I not here, there would be no one to think about you.” Traditional Jewish Tale

A DROP OF RAIN... A BIT OF SUN.



Once upon a time, a group of persons decided to build a lighthouse in order to aid those in distress at sea. Even more, this group decided not only to provide a beacon of light for those who were lost, but even to form rescue squads who would brave dangerous waters to save those imperiled by shipwreck.

In the beginning, the purpose of the group was clear. Everyone who joined them knew they, too, would be trained to save people in distress. Within a short time, however, some who joined the group began to question whether it was necessary to answer every distress signal. Perhaps, they said, it would be acceptable to have only certain hours when they were on duty. Next, they began to wonder if it were necessary for everyone to be part of the rescue mission. Perhaps, they thought, only certain members should go out, while most just watched from the shore.

After a time, the rescue missions stopped altogether and the group said, *'Enough of this going out to sea - if people are lost, we've got a light on our house to guide them. They can simply follow the light.'*

Next, the group began to be more concerned about the comfort of the lighthouse and their own safety. They began to argue about the interior design and exterior decorations of the lighthouse. In addition, they did not want wet and soggy people - rescued from the sea - messing up their lighthouse.

The more they argued, the dimmer the light on the house became. One day the light went out and no one even noticed it. Finally, the group had a nice, comfortable house - *and they changed the name from lighthouse to clubhouse.*

When I was a young man I prayed, *"God give me the grace to change the whole world and I will be happy."*
When I became a middle age man I prayed, *"God give me the grace to change my wife and children and then I will be happy."*
When I became an old man I prayed, *"God give me the grace to change myself and if I had done this in the beginning, I would not have wasted my life."*

WHEN WE DIE, I THINK GOD WILL ASK US THREE QUESTIONS:

1. WHO ARE YOU?
2. HOW DID YOU LOVE?
3. WHY WEREN'T YOU HAPPY?

"God, please give me the grace to go around doing good and not know it." -and the grace to become holy and not know it."

Three kinds of souls, three prayers:
I am a bow in your hands, Lord; draw me, lest I rot.
Do not overdraw me, Lord, I shall break.
Overdraw me, Lord, and who cares if I break.



Last week, Cindy and I, saw a Protestant, evangelical minister on T.V.. He has been receiving visits from the Holy Spirit saying that a new "Age of the Spirit" is close to being born and that millions of people are going to return to God. With All of the voices and people receiving heavenly visions and visits RIGHT NOW, this clearly seems to be another confirmation that something BIG is coming soon. -Or has ALREADY BEGUN. For yourself: Check Queen of Peace media, Christine Watkins and Father Michel Rodrigue. They have a VERY surprising, and what could be critical message! Illumination of conscience!

The famous Abbe Pierre, who cared for the Ragpickers of and Homeless of Paris, had the following motto and words for those whom he served: ***"Give people a bed, and a reason to get out of it."***



If you haven't read/studied the enclosed leaflet on Centering Prayer from a previous issue, you are missing something that is life changing. Contemplation was a common practice for 1500 years in the church. Now being restored!!



VISION AND REALITY

ALL DIS-INTEGRATION, all personal, interpersonal and social disintegration and pain- **is due to SIN**. Today, **NO ONE** wants to hear this!! -sounds too churchy and who wants to believe these days that the church has anything **ESSENTIAL** to contribute to the "sad state of affairs" in which we all wallow? Sin is a theological, a soul reality and therefore it deals with fallen human nature and God. **HUMAN SINFULNESS**, -NO MATTER WHO THE HUMAN IS- whether they know it or not, or whether they are willing to admit it or not, **HUMAN SINFULNESS** causes **EVERYTHING** to fall apart.

CHECK THE PARTIAL LIST: Selfishness, ego, pride, anger, fear, jealousy, vanity, violence, revenge, lying, rape, false-self, greed, lust, killing, stealing, glory/praise hounds, laziness, gluttony, slander, calumny, divorce, suicide AND MORE. EVERYONE OF THESE SINS GETS BORN IN THE HUMAN HEART AND SOUL. NOTHING happens OUTSIDE of a person that has not first happened INSIDE of a person. Just ask God!!!! -or your friendly psychologist!

Tell me, please tell me, does NOT the consequences of EVERY SIN listed above cause PERSONAL, INTERPERSONAL, SOCIAL, WORLD-WIDE PAIN??? -DEEP PAIN AND SERIOUS DIS-INTEGRATION?? SIN IS THE PROBLEM!! The **CORE** problem!! And it won't go away until it is effectively handled.

SOLUTION: The CORE, LASTING, ULTIMATE, TRUE solution that will take care of the all of the personal, interpersonal, social, world-wide problems is to face, ADMIT and heal the REAL CAUSE, NAMELY, SIN!!!!!!! The job of God's servants.

Society passes laws, has customs, and social niceties that offer superficial solutions that don't go deep enough to heal the real problem. Society, politicians, psychologists, social workers, psychiatrists, judges, lawyers, teachers, philosophers, social planners etc. try their best but they can't handle the DEPTH of the problem. Thank God for the help they DO offer. However, they can't offer solutions that GO DEEP ENOUGH TO TOUCH THE REAL CAUSE, namely SIN!! They are powerless to offer real, lasting solutions. Often, they don't even understand the depth of the real problem, so how can they offer a healing solution?

Sinful people attacking other sinful people just leaves two groups of sinful people - both hurting!! - but continuing to throw rocks at each other! Theologians alone, priests and ministers alone, the Bible alone, Jesus, the REAL SAVIOR from sin, alone, have the true, permanent, ultimate solution to the rampant sinfulness that floods our hearts and culture. You won't hear this on the evening news!

God created ALL MATTER, the earth, the universe, people, YOU and ME. God, in His Son Jesus (He sent a Savior, not a psychiatrist or social worker) **redeemed** the world, **YOU AND ME, from SIN**. Where are the preachers, prophets, spiritual leaders, the Wisdom teachers when we need them? Imagine the difference in our country, if all Christians believed and acted on this? How about just the 60 million Catholic Christians? Too many churches have kept the form and the language of religion but robbed it of real power! Holy Spirit power!! 'Woe to anyone who argues with his Maker... Shall the clay say to the Potter, "What are you doing." Or" What you are making has no handles." **Isaiah 45:9**.

"BETTER A CRUEL TRUTH THAN A COMFORTABLE DELUSION."

"Drifting", says the great historian, Arnold Toynbee, "is one of the most dangerous and pernicious and subtle dangers that happens in a time of moral decay." Toynbee defines drift as "a carelessness about the loss of spiritual and moral growth." Drifting is, to Toynbee, "one of the most painful of tribulations that affect the souls of people in a time of social decay." **LIKE NOW!!**

"Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility." St. Augustine

The Difference

*I got up early one morning and rushed right into the day;
I had so much to accomplish, I didn't have time to pray.
Problems just tumbled about me and grew heavier with each task.
Why' doesn't God help me, I wondered; He answered, "You didn't ask."
I wanted to see joy and beauty, but the day toiled on, gray and bleak
I wondered why God didn't show me. He said, "But you didn't seek."
I tried to come into God's presence; I used all my keys at the lock
God gently and lovingly chided, "My child, you didn't knock."
I woke up early this morning and paused before entering the day;
I had so much to accomplish that I had to take time to pray.*

- GRACE L. NAESENS

Old age (I just turned 83) gives us the ability to **waste time** with God. —to become true contemplatives. —to pray without words, without thoughts, without imagination, just **your pure spirit touching God's pure spirit**. Remember: Silence is God's first language. We talk too much. God gets tired of all of our words. He knows our hearts and our deepest needs. Just come before Him. Just rest in Him and you will be healed. Let Him wash over you. SWIM in His presence!! **"BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD."**

Every hour that you pray adds two hours to your day! Abba, Father!

"IGNORANCE OF THE SCRIPTURES IS IGNORANCE OF CHRIST." St. Jerome, - GOT A BIBLE?
Begin with John's gospel in the New testament. Read slowly with your head and heart.



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P.O. Box 99
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