

Hinsley Zoom 2 May 2020

God Who Waits:

I return to my centre today, finding abundant life in you.

Resting there, I am awakened to the gift of my being and becoming in your presence.

I offer my being and becoming as a song for the silence in which you meet me with your living Word.

Amen"

"To you, my Good Shepherd, I give my elemental being and all inner shadows that rise in opposition to love,

Use this day as my teacher.

Reveal where there is interior resistance to your truth and transformation, and bring the joyful release of feeling forgiven in each moment when I remember who I am and what you wish for me to become.

Amen"

THAT WE MAY BE ONE 2

*We hold this treasure in earthen vessels,
that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us.
We are afflicted in every way, but not constrained;
perplexed, but not driven to despair;
persecuted, but not abandoned;
struck down, but not destroyed;
always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus,
so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our body.*

2 Corinthians 4: 7-10

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Jesus shows us what it means to be a human person and the way to deepen our humanity

toward the fullness of life. His disciples recognized him as the Christ, the anointed One ...

the One who will bring about a new future, a new creation, and who has already done

so in our present age. ... What took place in Jesus' life must take place in ours as well

if the fullness of Christ is to come to be.

Ilia Delio, *The Emergent Christ*

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The extraordinary invitation of the Gospel to become one with God involves the gradual development of a consciousness beyond rational

***consciousness into what some spiritual traditions call “non-duality.”
In the Christian mystical tradition this is usually called the
transforming union.***

The Invitation of the Christian Contemplative Tradition: Beyond Rational Consciousness

What is non-duality? Without contemplative centers, the Christian perspective was virtually lost in the church. Monasteries grew because there was no other place where you could go to find this dimension of the Gospel ...The intimacy, closeness, presence and guidance of the Holy Spirit got to be more and more unknown. How could we forget the infinite presence of Love? The solution is to develop and interiorize a personal relationship with Christ as the Incarnate Word and Son of God.

Many Christians are deprived of a deep faith in God’s presence within them and the immense possibilities of the Christian life as presented by Jesus in his teaching and example. The intimacy that that implies is beyond any human intimacy that we can conceive of and is the source of our being at every moment.

How important it is to integrate into this Infinite Reality that is beginning to be seen as not only the supreme Being, but Being beyond being? That is, “isness” that has no limitation in any direction. Whatever you do, you are not only in the presence of God, but under the influence of the Spirit suggesting within us what the proper response to every detail of daily life actually is.

We cannot explain that level of consciousness without living it in some degree and fostering the Divine Indwelling. Centering Prayer is precisely our consent to God’s presence and action within us, the Divine Indwelling and a way of preparing ourselves to receive.

On the level of rational consciousness, effort is all-important. Effort becomes a hindrance, however, to further development at a certain point when rationality turns into the realization of the self-in-God.

Even though God is within us we do not deny the limitations of human nature ...We make mistakes and we fail, but the relationship with God in the

Christian perspective continues to develop. It gradually perceives that Ultimate Reality is love, and love is the most important activity that any creature can contribute to and that ultimately interests God.

Teilhard de Chardin thought that bodily evolution is pretty much over and now it is time to focus on spiritual evolution and higher stages of consciousness. If you seek enlightenment too ardently you are on the wrong path. It would be just another ego trip. You cannot have any attachment to the process, so you try to possess nothing, have nothing, be nothing. Even after enlightenment, mystics strongly affirm there is a lot of spiritual work to be done.

Like all other human experiences, God's relationship with every person is absolutely unique... we cannot negotiate the spiritual journey without a community to challenge us, to experience ourselves reacting with other people and seeing God in them, and exercising the kind of practical love that God manifests in helping us.