

Finding God

By Bud Moellinger

Someone posed a question about how to find God. They also posed the question, "What would you do if you found God?"

First I would like to say that the following is only my flawed opinion. It is what I think as an imperfect human being. I may be completely wrong. Some day, when I cross into the spirit world, I may find some answers.

I don't think that we have to, or need to find our Creator. Creator has found us. Creator made us, and made us in his/her image. Creator lives with-in our hearts.

Genesis 1: 26 Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Creator is in us. We continually hide from Creator, and since Creator is in us, we also hide from ourselves. Many times we try to be something that we are not. Many times we employ alcohol or drugs to help us hide from Creator. Many times we practice destructive behavior to hide from Creator. Remember that when we are hiding from Creator, we are also hiding from ourselves.

Some of us seek recognition from churches and organizations. We tend to seek a following, which would substantiate that we are on the correct path. If we cannot have a following we seek a large group, whose members may not be like us, but rather be like we want to be.

I do not think that Creator exists in any one form, or has come to any single nation. Nations are of this world, and not of the spiritual world.

Not too long ago Creator appeared in a man known as Jesus. This was Creator's Son. He lived with the people of the Mid-eastern part of the world. He became one of the people that he was trying to teach.

Before that Creator's Offspring appeared to people on this continent as a woman, The White Buffalo Calf Woman, as known by the Lakota. She brought among other Ceremonies to the Lakota, the Sacred Pipe, which the Lakota have to this day.

Before that Creator's Offspring appeared to the Cherokee as White Otter, who died defending the people against an evil serpent, but came back to life and ascended into the sky as The Bright Morning Star, pledging to return again in the future. We can look into the night sky and see that Oo ne la nuh hi Oo we-ji, is still there.

One (The People of the Iroquois Confederacy do not speak his name) was born of a

virgin, who upon surviving attempted murder by his grandmother, went to the Mohawk people, then the other warring people, until the Iroquois Confederacy was formed and used as a pattern for the United States Constitution, and is known as the Great Peacemaker helped his people. The people still have the Wampum Belts to this day.

On and on throughout the earth, different people have different stories about how they have come to know about Creator. Most have had a spiritual visitor or helper, who has helped them through some very trying times.

Each of these off-spring of Creator, gave the people direction on how to relate to Creator. And each seemed united in giving instructions as to how each person's individual spirituality was dependent upon them. No ministers, priests, sachems or go-betweens were needed. People who followed Creator's Off-spring, were told that they too could do these things.

Winyan Wakan Wi (White Buffalo Calf Woman's Song

(English paraphrase)

A sacred woman is sending a voice

A sacred woman has sent a voice

With a pipe she is sending a voice

A sacred woman is sending a voice

For health she is sending a voice

A sacred woman is sending a voice

With a medicine she is sending a voice

There will be a movement in the people

A sacred woman is sending a voice

John 14: 12-14 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Recognition, by a church or a group is not necessary. People can do these things by themselves. There is no need for the middleman. Many people have a neighbor who keeps laying hens. Eggs can be purchased from the neighbor. In almost all cases, these eggs are cheaper than the eggs in the super market. These eggs are fresher, more nutritious and better tasting than the super market variety. So why do we purchase inferior eggs at a higher price at the super market? One could say because of convenience. We are going to be at the super market anyway. So let's just get the eggs there. One could also say we purchase eggs at the super market because of laziness. It is just easier.

So the question we must ask when we are seeking Creator is; "Do we want a high quality, flavorful and nutritious relationship with Creator, or do we want a convenient relationship with Creator?"

The questioner said that they had been seeking a leadership role in a church, but none had

been forthcoming. Many hide from Creator in the big churches. Cattle herd together because they perceive a safety in numbers mentality. If something happens, the bigger the herd, the less chance there is of an individual being hurt. In a big church there is always someone else to blame for any problems.

The leadership role of any church or spiritual group should be Creator, or a helper spirit of Creator such as Jesus, The White Buffalo Calf Woman, The Great Peace Maker, White Otter, Allah, Buddha and any other helper spirit that you can think of that Creator has provided people in all parts of the world. The leadership role on the human level should be one of help. Help others to stop hiding from Creator. Help others who are in need of things other than spiritual in nature.

Each of us has certain gifts given to us by our Creator. We can use these gifts to be helpers to others.

"My pottery is the handiwork of God." Teresita Naranjo, SANTA CLARA PUEBLO

The Great One has given every human being at least one special talent and one special gift. We need to develop and practice these gifts because they are the handiwork of God. Maybe we are artists-when people look at our work it puts joy in their hearts; maybe we are singers- when people listen to our songs, their hearts are happy; maybe we are writers of song or poetry-when people hear or read our work, it may change their lives. We need to honor ourselves and our gifts. We need to thank the Creator for our talents and our gifts."

My Creator, let me use my gifts to further Your work on the Earth. By: Don Coyhis

What can you do as an individual follower of Creator and/or whichever helper spirit you receive help from? Can you build things? Can you repair things? Can you teach a skill? Can you visit someone in a hospital or nursing home? If you cannot do anything, can you just be a good listener? People everywhere need someone to just listen to their problems. Can you pray for others? By doing things to help others, we are helping Creator, because Creator is in others. Helping others reveals our self to Creator who is in us.

The Lakota have a saying, "Mitakuye Oyasin", (All My Relatives) which is much more than a saying. It is a prayer and a way of life. Mitakuye Oyasin includes everyone and everything. Creator, You, Other People, The Earth, Animals, Birds, Insects, Stones, Plants, Fish, and everything that makes up the Earth, that Creator has provided for us. All are inter-related. When one of these is hurt or abused, all are hurt. Creator created all things, all of our relatives be they plant, animal, man or mineral. All must work to take care of each other.

If a spider is crawling across the floor, and you kill it, you have also killed a part of Creator. You have also killed a part of yourself. When you eat a rabbit, you are eating a part of Creator, a part of your relative, and a part of yourself. At the end of your days on

earth, you will pass into the spirit world, and then your body will feed others, completing the circle on the earth.

The helper spirit Jesus started a new ceremony for his followers that today is called Holy Communion, which portrays the Lakota saying, "Mitakuye Oyasin". That is why it is important to take no more than what you need to complete your journey to the spirit world, and to remember that what we eat, drink or use is a part of Creator. When one partakes of Holy Communion, whether as a Christian Ceremony, or as an everyday meal, (Where a plant or animal has given it's life to sustain yours) it is a good idea to thank the spirit of those sacrificed, even to the extent of thanking the earth for the minerals you consumed using electricity, gas or wood to cook the food.

The process to stop hiding from Creator is difficult as evidenced by how the world hates those who will recognize Creator, and try to do things in Creator's way and on Creator's time schedule.

John 15: 18-19 "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you.

Faith is what it takes to let Creator find you, to keep yourself from hiding from Creator.

Matthew 18: 2-4 He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

Children ask a lot of questions. Children question everything they are told or asked to do. They are always asking, "Why?" It appears that very early in our earthly life Creator has programmed us to not blindly follow what a church leader, priest, pastor, teacher, or whoever you wish to insert here, tells us. We need to question and think, and figure things out with Creator's help. Chickamauga people and most American Indian people who have not been fully colonized by people of other spiritual ways, include their children in adult activities. There is little separating people out according to age. This allows the children to learn from the adults, and the adults to learn from the children.

Revealing yourself to yourself, thus revealing yourself to Creator, will not bring any magical peace. Remember that the world, what the majority see as normal, hates you. So it will be difficult. Your special talents may be used to help 100 people, but possibly only one will appreciate your efforts. Maybe that is one who is not hiding from Creator, or maybe that is the one who your actions help to reveal Creator to.

When attempting to reveal Creator within yourself, remember that Creator has a different attitude about time than we do. There are lessons to be learned in Creator's time frame. Something we may have done or said to someone years ago, may come to fruition well into the future. If we are lucky we can sometimes remember, and recall, "This is why

that happened so long ago, Creator had a plan.”

Ecclesiastes 3: 1 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

Ecclesiastes 3: 9-11 What do workers gain from their toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on the human race. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.

We might want to add that no one can fathom what Creator will do from the beginning to the end. Whatever happens to us, we should be thankful for being involved in the plan, even if we do not know what it is.

Since trying to find Creator in myself, I have done many things that in the years past I would have never attempted. As a reward I have seen Creator in the face of a prisoner. I have seen Creator in the face of the animals that I care for. I have seen Creator in the plants that I grow in the garden. I have been blessed by being able to see Creator in many ways and in many things, where I used to think Creator could not exist. The Magi did gift Jesus when they found him. I think that the Magi had already found Creator. That is why they were on the journey to find Jesus.

John 6: 44 “No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

Not being a wealthy astrologer the only thing that I can gift Creator with is myself, and that is not much of a gift since Creator made me. So all I can do is offer help in ways that I can help. I can try to use the skills that I received from Creator to help other people. I can use the brain that Creator gave me to not blindly follow the loudest, richest, slickest or the most successful preacher that has a big following, when it comes to my spiritual well being. I can be comfortable with my ways of dealing with Creator, while being open to accepting other people’s ways of dealing with Creator.

On final thought on seeking Creator that has helped me is a quote from the author of *The Power of Intention* by Dr. Wayne Dyer,

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having a human experience.”

I do not know if these words will be of any help. The questioner asked some very good questions which made me slow down and think about my own spiritual journey. I have found a comfort in following Creator in a traditional way that my Chickamauga people have followed for many thousands of years. I have found peace in the old ways. I have comfort in knowing that Creator is listening to me when I am at the Fire. There is stress in my life in this modern world, but there is peace and rejuvenation in the traditional ceremonies. The path I follow may not be the path for others. I have come to accept that

there are different paths for different people. Spending quiet time alone, in the presence of only me and Creator allows me to hear the voices of Creator and bring some comfort. So, I guess when one finds Creator within their heart, they will feel more at ease and will begin to not care about what the world is saying or thinking about them.

Around the turn of the century the Cree were undergoing a drastic change of the ways in which they had lived for centuries. They were being colonized and exterminated during the infamous American holocaust. Destruction of races of people in numbers never known in the past, nor never to be seen in such large numbers in the future, were on-going on the North American continent. The following are the words of Thunderchild, who understood what evil the denying of religious freedom and tolerance could do.

*Can things go well in a land where freedom of worship is a lie,
a hollow boast? To each nation is given the light
by which it knows God, and each finds its own way to express the
longing to serve Him . . . If a nation does not do what is right
according to its own understanding, its power is worthless.
THUNDERCHILD, PLAINS CREE, 1849-1927*