

The Sower

Bulletin & Voice of

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Celebrate God in Your Life!

When was the last time you stopped in your busy schedule and paid homage to God for something He may have done for you; for something She may have shown you; for some small miracle which may have come about in your life; or simply for God's greatness? In other words, when was the last time you stopped what you were doing and said, **"Thank You, God. Today has been a pretty good day."**? For many, I fear the answer is: **"It's been quite some time!"**

We attend religious services to worship and honor Divinity, but how do we **celebrate** God in our lives? What's the first step in celebrating the Holiness of our Divine Parent?

The first step, oddly enough, is to recognize that there is truly something to celebrate. God gave us life. And in giving us life, God gave us freedom to make choices on how to live that life. God gave us all the seeds that we need to plant a most remarkable garden within Creation. He gave us the tools of the mind and the tools of the heart to sow those seeds, to nurture them, and to cultivate those precious gardens. She gave us fellowship. He gave us family, friends, communities, animal companions, a global family, and, yes, even challenges to push us along in our journeys.

God gave us the ability to bring two worlds together; to build bridges of love, guidance, and support between heaven and earth. God gave us the earth that we may become caretakers of this grand heavenly sphere. He sent us prophets to walk upon the earth, casting the seeds of the Divine Word into the hearts and souls of men and women. She gave us the heavens to behold and to be filled with wonder and

awe. All this, God gave to us! Surely, that is something to celebrate!

Ask yourself this simple question: **Are you alive, or are you dead?**

Are we alive? Can we feel ourselves? If we cannot feel ourselves, are we alive? Can you feel yourself sitting right where you are at this moment? Can you feel God's Holy Spirit surging through **your** Spirit, as it surges through the veins of every living Spirit throughout the whole of Creation? When the bridge between the worlds is created and Spirit comes forward and offers us the miracle of testimony, are we truly moved by the experience of God's Holy Spirit **right before our very eyes?** Can we feel ourselves? Can we relate to ourselves and to one another? If not, are we alive? I am not asking if we have life. What I ask is: **Are we alive?**

Do we take the time to look around us; to observe the simple beauties of life: the colorful leaves, the birds, the rising and setting of the sun and moon? Or are we just too busy? Perhaps, we are so absorbed by the tragedies which surround us that we fail to notice the magnificence and wonders which are also around and within us.

Some time ago, I conducted a seminar on the soul's journey. After talking for over 6 hours, I gave an hour of S++pirit communication. The day went well and, although tired, I felt exhilarated and charged up.

During the day, the issue of Purgatory came up. At one time, it was believed that the Catholic Church suddenly decreed that Purgatory no longer existed. On Sept. 17, 2002, Pope John Paul II stressed "the need to pray for the Souls in Purgatory." On January 12, 2011, Pope Benedict made the following comment: "Purgatory

is like a purifying fire burning inside a person, a painful experience of regret for one's sins. A soul stained by sin cannot present itself to God." YIKES; how horrid!

A healthy discussion ensued with some rather interesting "takes" on this so-called world of purification, along with the issue of sin; always a hot topic. It made for some fascinating discussions about the Spirit and the grand journey of the soul. But, underneath the discussions, I could see people, from all walks of life, asking themselves some basic questions: What **is** it all about? What **is** the journey of the soul about? Can the soul be "stained"? Why **are** we here and where, in fact, **do** we go after we release the body?

Finally, an elderly lady spoke up and, with tears in her eyes, said: "Rev. Simeon, what I hear you saying is: *The journey of the soul is a journey of healing through love and forgiveness. Is that right?*" I looked at her and said: "Madam, you got it *exactly right!*" She then said to the group of 40 or so people: "That makes me feel much better. I guess that's something to celebrate."

"I guess that's something to celebrate." Celebrating God in our lives means noticing what God does for us in our lives and in the life of our community. Celebrating God means rising above the clock, which constantly seeks to convince us that we have no time, and then **finding/making** the time to invite God back into our lives. Celebrating God means witnessing for God; sharing with others what God can do for them, more than what God has done for us.

Celebrating God in our lives means being alive; not just biologically alive, but **spiritually** alive and vital in the essence of God's Spirit within us. Celebrating God in our lives means being excited over the prospect of what our Human Family can achieve and then making that visionary dream become a reality. Celebrating God is knowing, deep within your soul and Spirit, that healing is not just **a** reality; it can become **your** reality, **my** reality, and **our collective global** reality. Celebrating God in our lives is knowing that miracles happen today, just as they did in the past.

There is so much to celebrate when we celebrate God. When we celebrate God in our lives, we celebrate life itself, in all its goodness,

grace, love, and forgiveness. God created life; therefore, **life is good!** God created you; therefore, **you are good!**

When we celebrate life, we cast away the shadows of death. And when we cast away the shadows of death, there is only light. And when there is only light, there can only be hope. And when there is only hope, faith becomes engaged. And when we engage faith, we see clearly. And when we see clearly, the door to God's Holy Kingdom lies wide open before us. And when we stand at that threshold, there is a friend, a companion, a shepherd, a guide, waiting for us; beckoning us to enter therein. Why? Because there is a place within that Kingdom of the Divine for every one of us.

And you know what? God doesn't care whether you're Christian, Jewish, Islam, Buddhist, Atheist, sinner, saint, or anything else. She really doesn't! So long as you get yourself to that door, He'll be there; helping you cross that wondrous threshold, into the Kingdom! And where is that threshold? It's right here and right now; not there and then. God's Kingdom does not have to be someplace else, at some other time. One step **now** is all it takes! Surely, that's something to celebrate!

~ Rev. Simeon

Eight-Step Recovery Meetings

We are pleased to announce that **beginning May 23, 2022**, the First Spiritual Temple will begin hosting weekly, in person and remotely:

Return to Stillness: 8-Step Recovery Meetings.

Join us in our beautiful Temple, or online via Zoom, as we discover how the teachings of Buddha can help us overcome our addictions and obsessive behaviors.

All are welcome for meditation, discussion, hope, discovery, and movement towards freedom and inner peace.

For details, you may contact:

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