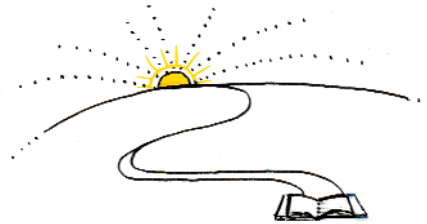


Jesus said: "Seek and you will find"

DISCOVERING GOD

A collection of illustrated meditations
on the personality of GOD

CATHARINE HERON



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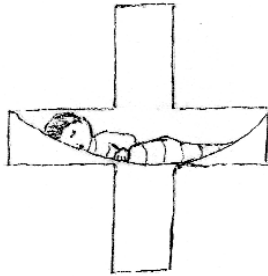
Most references are quoted from *The Living Bible*

INTRODUCTION

This is a collection of Meditations: food for thought, seeds of ideas, offered in words and pictures, the purpose of which is to discover in Jesus' Life, his words and actions, the Personality of God.

"I and my Father are one ..." From birth to death Jesus and His Father were a unit. So it may be presumed that in his human life Jesus was a perfect reflection of the nature of God.

We search in the Gospels to learn how we humans should live — what we should be like ... I want to discover what the Gospels say about God.



PART 1 • Son of God — PART 2 • Son of Man



"Jesus said:
'I am in my Father,
 & you in me
 & I in you.'"

PROLOGUE — Part 1

GOD invisible, mysterious, absolute Reality—at the
IS heart of all things that exist — The Creator
leaving the mark of His Personality in all things
He has made (as does anyone who creates).

In Jesus God made himself visible in a human body, and thus He revealed His Personality, His Spirit, in a tangible form that could be discovered and experienced more easily by human beings.

Within Jesus we can learn what God is like, and we can see that God is present within all human experiences and feelings. In our own life, within our thoughts and feelings, we can find God for ourself. It is not that He is outside us, observing us from afar but, in a way we cannot understand, that He is present within every experience, every feeling that we have. It is mystery. In some mysterious way we can be aware of His actual Presence within our Self, part of all we are and all we do.

This experience of relationship will not be forced upon us — but if we allow it and open our mind we can become aware of something within our Consciousness which is more than our own identity, our own personality. This is the Personality of God present in us. God in us and us in God.

In Jesus God reveals Himself.

In Jesus we can discover what God is like.

In Jesus we can find our true Self.



GOD IS CREATIVE

First and foremost God is the Creator Life-source.

"He created everything and there is nothing exists that He did not make" (St John 1:3).

He is present within His creation.

We who are made as an image of God are ourselves creative. In everything we make we express something of ourself; similarly, in every thing that exists we see something of God: His creative power, His aliveness and beauty. We wonder at the minute things seen only under a microscope ... at such a tiny creature as a flea, which has the same organs and body systems as a dinosaur or an elephant! We can wonder as much at a feather as at a forest tree; at a pebble as at a mountain; at a water drop as at an ocean wave; at a firefly's light as at sun, moon and stars.

"To me the meanest flower that blows gives thoughts that lie too deep for tears" (William Wordsworth).

Well may we be puzzled by the seeming harshness of nature, asking what this says about God ... Surely that God is beyond our understanding! God will always be Mystery. The Creator must be greater than the creation. If it were not so He would not be worshipped — you do not worship your equal! This is a very humbling thing, and yet He communicates with us, loves us, guides us, helps us.

"SPIRIT OF GOD FREE AS THE AIR



GENTLE AS A DOVE"

LIKE AIR GOD IS EVERYWHERE

GOD IS SPIRIT

"God is spirit and everyone who worships Him will worship Him in spirit and in Truth" (St John 4:23).

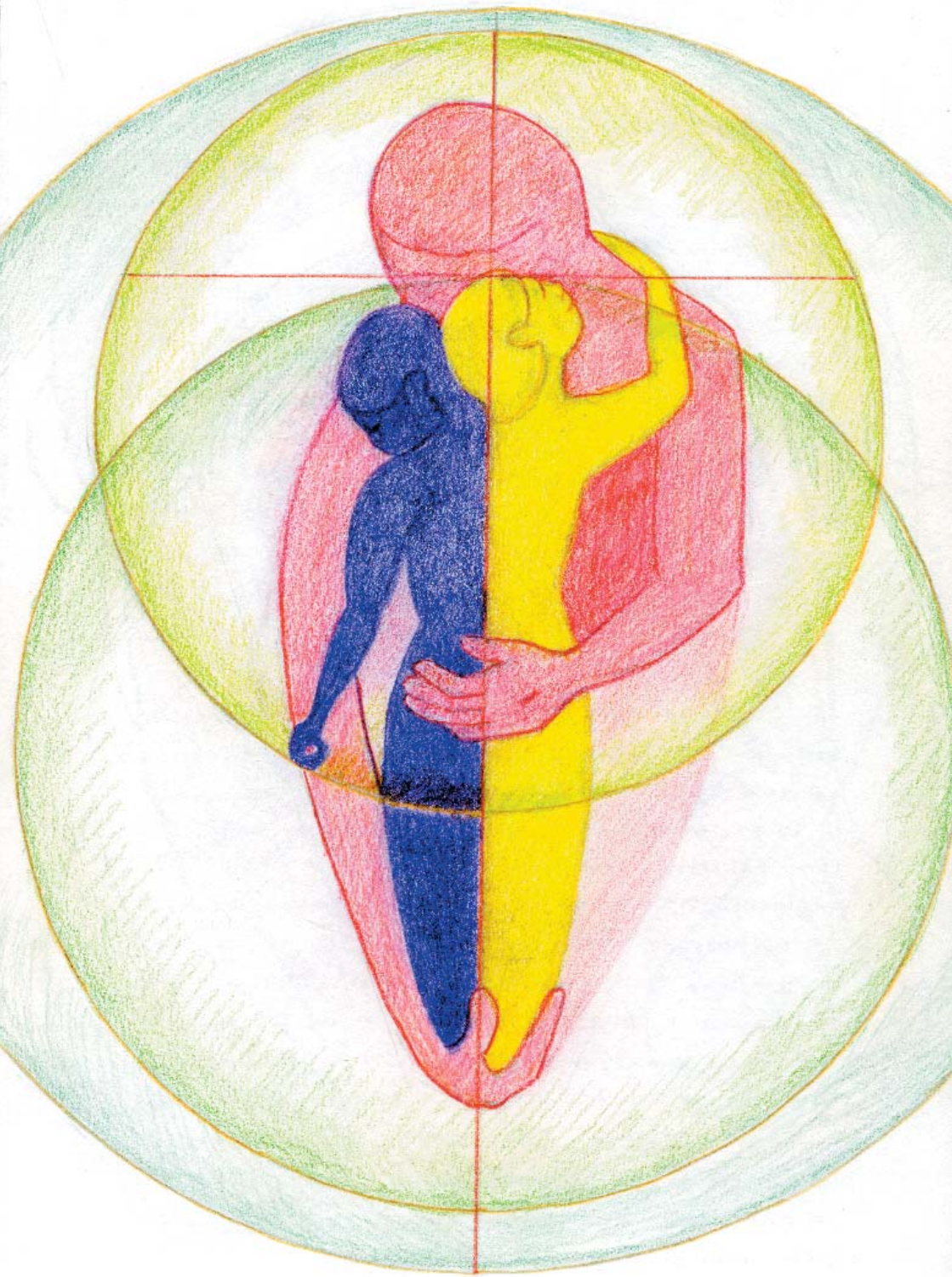
"Just as you can hear the wind but cannot tell where it comes from or where it will go next, so it is with the Spirit" (St John 3:8).

Spirit has no tangible form or visible appearance. It is the essence, the truest reality of a Person's identity. As it is of God's Identity.

The wind is a wonderful illustration of this. Wind is air that is moving: breeze or hurricane. We cannot see the wind, but we can hear and feel it, and see what it does. We use words to describe it, words such as "roaring", "whispering", "howling" for its sound; "mighty", "powerful", "gentle", "carressing" for its feel. We also use the image of a gentle dove for spirit.

How, then, does this imagery describe God? Certainly not as a sort of superhuman Being! God is something uniquely, invisibly "else". So how can we physical mortals experience God? He acts within our perception of our Self ... unforeseen thoughts drop into our mind — our feelings or reactions may suddenly change. To recognise God we need to open our inner awareness to a possibility beyond physical Self. It is a conscious decision taken in trust to set our minds into "neutral" — no thoughts — or to send a cry for help out beyond one's Self.

This "beyond", this invisible experience, is where God-Spirit meets our spirit, where we "know" God in a mysterious but very personal and real relationship.



GOD IS LOVING

"God loved the world so much that He gave His unique Son" (St John 3:16).

Love, as St Paul describes it, is patient, generous, kind, humble, unselfish, unbiased, forgiving and unfailingly constant (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

God's love is the epitome of true Love. It is probably beyond our full comprehension! From the Bible it seems that God can't not love anyone. He may not like what we are, or approve of what we do — but His Love is as constant as the air we breathe, and as essential for Life. His Love is everlasting. It is the source of our ability to love.

To know we are loved, regardless of whether we accept or reject His love, is so amazing that it leaves one speechless! How can one express a response to such a huge giving? One can only accept it and receive it into one's inner being, without trying to understand it or explain it ... even less trying to describe it. In His Love God will do anything to enable us to experience Him, to draw us into a relationship with Him. It was for this that He created us! He desires this more than we realise ... He even accepted human torture and agonising death, to demonstrate the lengths His Love would go to in order to defeat the evil powers that would separate us.

His resurrection was and is the victory of His Love over Evil, Love stronger than Death.