

Finding God in everyday life

There are 4 **key elements** in finding *God* in our everyday lives.

- The realization, the conviction, that *God* is there. After that, it is all very easy.
- A belief in the *Good News* - that Jesus won a victory over sin and death by his dying and rising for us.
- Dying to Self.
- Careful *practice*.

God is there.

Once I really realize *God* is there, and become convinced of it, my heart hungers to *find* *God* there. Once my appetite is whet, I desire to find *God* in a much different way than I look for my car keys. What I'm really desiring is *intimacy* with *God*. I want to know I'm not alone in my life. I want to be *connected* with *God*.

How is *God* there? Or, "who am I connecting with?" *God* made this whole world and gave life to each and every one of us who lives in it. *God* made us with *purpose* - that we be happy with *God* forever. So, we are not looking for or connecting with a *God* who is distant or indifferent. Our *God* is passionately engaged in drawing us to the fullness of life we were created for. We are seeking to find a *God* who **loves us** and is always seeking intimacy with us. It is simple. A sense of *absence* vanishes when I am open to a sense of *presence*.

Living in the Good News.

I can hardly go through a single day without encountering the reality of sin and death - in me and in the world around me. One way to *cope* is to join in our culture's denial of the reality of sin and death. Our faith gives us another way. We have come to believe that Jesus is Lord, most especially where sin and death seem to prevail. We have come to believe that we can open our eyes and act fearlessly in the face of death. We have come to believe we have nothing to fear. We have come to believe that it is precisely in the places where we encounter the greatest darkness or brokenness or confusion that we

will find God. There we discover our Savior. There we experience the Good News. It is in those everyday places - where we *taste* frailty, unreliability, emptiness - that we find God's love is most powerfully present. Attentive faith finds the gift being offered in every human situation: a love and a peace the world can not give.

Less Self-absorbed.

When I don't fear death as much, I am less afraid of dying to myself. It sounds so obvious. When I'm absorbed with myself - my needs, how much attention I'm getting, doing things my way, everything in reference to me - it is pretty difficult to find God. The "space" inside of me is pre-occupied. However, as my openness to and hunger for a loving presence grows, I am de-selfish and freer. Often my self-pity or self-focus comes out of a fear that I won't have "enough." I fear any "emptiness" so I "fill" it quickly. However, when I ask to be emptied, I discover an empowering fullness. When I become more and more focused on how very much is being offered me in the loving presence of Jesus, discovered in every part of my day, I discover the power of Augustine's prayer: "O Lord, Our God, you have created us for yourself and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Practice, Practice, Practice.

Practice makes the difference. What did we ever "get good at" that didn't involve lots of practice? Changing my patterns, my habits, my routines may be difficult, but I know that I am very resilient and quite resourceful when I really want something. *Choice* is the key. Making the choice to adopt some new patterns allows it to happen. God is always choosing to be with me, in any way, in any situation I will be open to. The choice to get better at meeting God there is all mine.

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