

UNITY
CHURCH OF BAKERSFIELD
"A POSITIVE PLACE TO GROW!"

Today's Lesson
The Unknown

Power Point notes available
at:
www.unityofbakersfield.org

The Unknown



Ever since humankind developed consciousness we have been on a quest to find answers to the unknown.

As humankind turned their attention to understanding the world in which they lived, they tried to explain the supernatural, to understand the unknowable – the nature of God.

The Unknown

A true conversation between a Unity minister and one of the church members:

I had been praying to have someone special in my life. After months of praying and releasing the outcome into God's hands, my ex-husband came back into my life.

He also has been praying and he say's God is telling him we're meant to be together again.

But my answer from God is a very definite no. How can God say yes to one and no to the other?

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This is what is known as the blessing and a curse. To the ex-husband it is a blessing sent from God as a "yes!" To the ex-wife is a curse sent from God in the answer of a "no!"

Each individual is defining the nature of God in their own terms based on the desired outcome to their prayers.

Giving your current understanding of the nature of God, what would your response be to the question: *How can God say "yes" to one and "no" to the other?*

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The minister asked her go home and meditate (not pray) on her question then come back once she had the answer. A few days later she called for an appointment.

"So what did Spirit reveal to you in your meditation?" asked the minister.

"God isn't saying yes or no. It's Ego disguising itself as God in both our experiences," she responded.

The Unknown



The writer of Deuteronomy tried to explain God as a blessing and a curse this way:

See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today; and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known.

Deuteronomy 11:26-28

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Type in the "Nature of God" in any search engine on the internet and you'll get a well-spring of information from all sorts of writers. The quest to know the unknown drives us to try and understand the "whys" of the world.



Case in point comes from this story told by Dr. Bernie Siegel, a surgical doctor and best selling author of several books on love and medicine:

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Many years ago my great grandfather told me of the persecution he experienced in Russia that led him to come to his country. He said the Cossacks would pursue him at night, when he was out teaching, and slash him with their sabers. One night he was on the hill above his village with his rabbi. As they looked down, they could see the Cossacks killing their Jewish brethren.

My great grandfather heard the rabbi say, *"I wish I were God."*

He asked, *"Do you want to be God so you can change the bad into good?"*

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To which the rabbi answered, *"No, I wouldn't change anything. I want to be God so I can understand."*

I believe this is what my intellectual mentor, Einstein, had in mind when he said: *I wish to know the mind of God.*

Dr. Siegel goes on to write: When I was a young boy, several of my friends became seriously ill, and one was hit by a car while bicycling to my house. When they died, I asked my father, *"Why did God make a world where terrible things happen?"*

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Why didn't God make a world free of diseases, accidents, and problems?"

He said, *"To learn lessons."* I didn't like that answer so, I asked my rabbi, teacher, and others. They said things like: *"God knows why not. Who knows. That's life, and to bring you closer to God."* Some were honest enough to just say, *"I don't know."* This didn't leave me feeling satisfied or enlightened. When I told my mother what they said, she answered,

"Nature contains the wisdom you seek."

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Even in Jesus's day people were trying to understand the nature of God, to get a glimpse of the unknown.

And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, *Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?*

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Jesus answered, *Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*

So how can we begin to understand the unknown the way Jesus did, the way all the great spiritual teachers, sages, and mentors did?

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Maybe, just maybe, using the following steps may be of help:

Step One: *Always put God first.*

Love God, self and neighbor as self, seek God first within by shutting out the outside world so that you can ask, knock, listen, and take action.

Step Two: *Take it one day at a time.*

“Be not anxious,” said Jesus. Tell yourself, *“This one day, with God as my partner, I will be in control of what I say, do, and how I react.”*

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Step Three: *Associate with people who see themselves as positive, life affirming, and spiritually directed.*

Jesus’s comment to the disciples: *If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, leave that home or town and shake the dust off your feet.* So

surround yourself with positive-minded people. If you are looking for peace of mind, you don’t want to hang around people who do nothing but complain, tear down, gossip, lament on what is wrong with everyone and everything.

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Step Four: *Be patient with yourself.*

Generally, change does not happen overnight. Just as you did not become the person you are this very minute overnight, neither is your ultimate goal for yourself happen overnight. It takes planning and then working the plan, then it take re-planning and re-working, always building on one success after another, one day at a time.

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Step Five: *Give thanks.*

No matter how small the demonstration is in your life give thanks by affirming you are now able to accept the feeling of learning something new that will give you greater insight into the nature of God. “Thank You, God for this experience, this demonstration. I may not fully understand or see the whole picture, but I know that the Christ in me does. And in time all will be revealed for a Jesus stated, *“God is spirit!”*”