



Unity Church of Christianity
The Circle of God
June 26, 2011

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Something that is very important to a person's spiritual progress, unfoldment, evolution, and advancement comes down to their concept of God—their understanding of God and the ideas that they hold within their consciousness about God. It's very important as to what that is, because according to your understanding and concept of God, you can go no further in your experience of God. If you have very limiting concepts and old, outdated concepts, it hinders you; such as, we teach that God is not a punishing God. If we put God in the parental framework, then we will draw from that experience and create that as our reality.

It's very important for us to be moving toward what is the purest of truths, and that is a progression. That's an unfoldment that takes place in our lives. We really want our lives to reflect the Reality of God—with a capital *R*—and the reality of our own—with a small *r*. We're trying to move from the small *r* to the big *R* all the way along.

All of us are in different places of understanding in our progression. There are those who are atheists, who don't believe in God, all the way up to those who believe in God anywhere from a little to a lot. There are those who have an understanding of God everywhere from a little to a lot. There are those who walk in the shallows of spiritual teachings and truths, and then there are those who really have the intention to go deeper, spending the time not just in study, but in time

to have an experience with the Divine. One moves from shallows into the depths, and we're not judging anyone here in any of that. It's just that we're all in different places, and we make it all okay. We open our arms, we love, and we accept one and all. But the whole idea is that if we want to be spiritually awake, we are to be conscientious and consciously looking to awaken into a deepening relationship with God and with the truth of God. That is something that sometimes involves unlearning certain things so that we can create the space to learn what God truly is.

A large segment of the world has a need for a new concept of God, or at least a deeper understanding of God and the nature of God—to at least learn and understand that God is Spirit. God is not a man standing somewhere off in the sky, as a person out there. But God is Spirit. We worship Him in spirit and in truth, and that spirit is at the center of every person. So when you're looking at any other individual, it's God looking at God—an individualized expression of God looking at another individualized expression of God. God's spirit is everywhere and in everyone. That's an expansive idea. A lot of people don't wake up to that, and their whole life is different from the person who's asleep to that fact, as opposed to the person who's awake to that. The person who's awake to that functions at another whole energetic vibrational frequency. Just that alone catapults you into a different space, a different consciousness, and a different way of showing up in the world.

So there are deeper understandings of God, and those deeper understandings didn't suddenly happen in our era of time. There were people all through time who had deeper understandings of God, because God always was and there were always those who went deeper. There were people who had deep understandings of God prior to Jesus coming to the earth. You can go back and track them and study them, and there are universal truths that they had embraced and come to know.

Of course, Jesus' mission on earth was to come and to clarify the truth and remind us once again of what the truth was. Anytime that humanity—as a mass collective consciousness—goes off track significantly, there's an avatar that comes to the planet and helps bring it on back. Jesus was the great master teacher who introduced the truth once again and put us back on track and in alignment with a true relationship with the nature of God, as God being love and various other aspects—the importance of oneness.

Empedocles was an individual who dates back to approximately 500 years before Jesus Christ. He was a Greek philosopher, statesman, poet, and physiologist. He was around about the time of Buddha, about 500 years before Christ. I don't know a lot about this individual. I haven't read a lot about him. He was a Greek philosopher. He went into the depths. I know of him because there was a quote that has made its way down through time—from 500 years before Christ to now—in terms of something he said that so capsulized an understanding of the nature of God. It speaks to me, and it has spoken to people, and that's why it has continued down through time. What he said was, "The nature of God is a circle whose center is everywhere and whose circumference is nowhere."

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Now meditate on that for a while. That is profound, and that has depth. Think about “the center is everywhere” for a while. The center is here. The center is where you’re sitting. The center of God is everywhere. That means the allness of God is everywhere at every moment in time—the allness and the fullness. He understood that. There’s not a little bit of God over there and more God over there. What he was really talking about was the omnipresence of God. There is no place where God is not, and he came to understand that and know that. That was his experience.

He also came to say, in the depths of his work and evolution, that that’s the circumference of God, like a circle that’s endless. There is no alpha, no omega, no beginning, no end. We always want to put boundaries on something. We want to draw a circle and say, “I’m inside God. I’m exclusive.” Humanity has wanted to do that as well. Empedocles says that the circumference of God is nowhere. You cannot find the boundary line where God is not. It’s nowhere. However far you go out, no matter how many universes you embrace, God is there. Wherever you may find yourself, it becomes a center point—the center of God. The allness of God is there in that moment of time.

That’s something for us to learn and understand because most of us live from a consciousness of separation. We grew up with the concept that God is off in the sky somewhere. We’re over here, and we’re begging and pleading—like we are to a parent—to be kind to us, help us, or not punish us. Much of what we have learned has to be erased or unlearned to create the space for truth to find its way in. That’s a part of our spiritual growth and unfoldment, as well.

The circumference is talking about the expansiveness—the idea of God being infinite. He was talking about that 500 years before Christ. If God is centered everywhere, then all of God’s power is centered in you and centered in me. Whether we’re awake to that or not, that is the truth, and that is what we’re meant to be waking up to.

God’s presence lives in the center of our being and it depends on us, individually, to have a direct experience and conscious contact with the Divine. You don’t have to go searching and seeking for it somewhere else. It’s centered right where you are. It’s up to every one of us, as individuals, to have that direct experience. It is the endeavor of every individual soul to find and experience complete union with the Source. Intuitively, we know that that union exists. We know that because everyone seeks an awareness of something greater than themselves to find completion in it. We all feel and know that we’re not complete, at least in expression. The truth of who we are is complete. God knows who we are. We are a perfect idea in the mind of God, but you and I have been given free will to bring that forth into expression. Therefore, we have choices to be made, thoughts to hold, and ideas to embrace or sweep aside. All of that is a dynamic, and it all hinges upon a personal relationship with the one mind we call God—the all-knowing mind, which is centered in you and in all of us. A person may feel, at times, like they’re disconnected from God, and that’s a normal human experience to feel disconnected because we’re into all of our human emotions and fears. That’s part of the pathway and the journey.

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A great analogy I came across is about a pipeline that is carrying water from the high elevations of the mountains. That pipeline is bringing the water down into the homes in the valley. There is a break—a disconnect in the pipe—and the water stops flowing from the high places to the low in the valley. It does not mean that the water has dried up at its source. It only means there is a disconnect. The disconnect is really us. We determine the connect or the disconnect, but the source has not ever dried up. That's what Empedocles was saying.

We were recently talking about the idea that there is a secret place of the Most High which the Scriptures talk about. The secret place of the Most High is within us. You enter it by simply knowing that it's there—that it lives in you. That's all you need to know. You need to find time to get quiet and still and connect with the secret place of the Most High—God—which lives in you.

Jesus said all power was given to Him in heaven and earth. In another place He says of His own self He can do nothing. It seems like a contradiction, but the truth is you have to understand what He understood. He understood and realized that there is one presence. There is one power. We all live in this presence and power, and yet there are universal laws and principals that even He had to surrender to and be in harmony with, to the one presence, the one power, and the one mind where truth lives. He had to be surrendering to that one presence and power in order for His thoughts to become God thoughts—in order for His ideas to be the truth of the ideas of the Divine.

So Jesus had in Him the mind of God. The apostle Paul came along and said, "Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus." This mind is the mind of God. You have access to the mind of God. The mind that was in Jesus is also in you. It's there. It lives. Those are things for us to know and actually think about, because to think about them actually takes us toward and into the experience of being in it. It can't happen any other way. You have to know about something and know it exists in order to open to it. It has no room in your mind or experience.

When humanity learns that God is at the center of every person, we'll have the end of hate and war. We won't necessarily like everything that people are doing, but we won't kill them or hate them. We'll separate the person from the condition. We haven't progressed as a mass of humanity to that place yet. Our place in this life is to become both an inlet and, more importantly, an outlet for God—and outlet for God's love, wisdom, truth, and goodness. That's what you're called here to be and to be about—to be a vessel through which the expression is an outlet. We are here to lift our cup to the Lord, as Ezekiel or Isaiah said, to toast to the magnificence of the Divine, to have our cup filled and pour it forth into the world. That's what we've been called to do.

There is this incredible power for good that lives and dwells within all of us, and the only limit that is placed on this power is our belief and our understanding. If it's a weak belief and a limited understanding, that is the only limit that we can place on God. As we expand our understanding and deepen our belief, more of God is able to funnel through us.

There are two aspects of God that we've talked about that are important to understand. There is the very personal aspect of God and there is the very impersonal aspect of God. There is love and law. Love is the personal aspect of God. You can have a loving personal relationship dependent upon your belief and how wide and deep your belief goes. You can have this heart connection—a conversation with God; an ongoing daily moment-to-moment relationship with God is there for any and all. The impersonal aspect of God is that there is law. That's what Jesus was saying when He said, "I've been given over all heaven and earth, but I also, of my own self, can do nothing. There are laws I have to be in harmony with." Jesus said, "I come not to destroy the law, but I come to fulfill it." In other words, He was saying, "You guys misunderstood the law. You're making all the laws outside yourself instead of understanding that they're internal, having to do with consciousness." Back then the Jewish laws and religion had so many outer rituals that had to be done in order to qualify or be worthy of God, and there was no way you could possibly do them all. So He was coming to steer them not to destroy the law, but to clarify—to help them understand that there are laws and principles, and here's what they are. That's what He taught. Most of it was around, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." As you give, so shall you receive. Forgive and you shall be forgiven. Judge not, lest ye be judged. It's all about what's going out and what's coming back—what's being mirrored back to you. Jesus was saying that those are laws of consciousness, and you have to live within them if your life is to be changed.

He also talked about being lifted up from the earth. What He meant by that is that here we are in a human experience, and we are to be in the world—but not of it. That meant to not get caught up in all of the externals—to go above that. Yes, you are a human having a human experience, but the truth is that you're a spiritual being, and to be lifted up from the earth is to be called into the expression of the Divinity that lives in you—to not get lost in your humanity and forget your Divinity. That's what He was saying when He said, "Let us all be lifted up from the earth."

It's not easy for us to live in this world where there's a lot of negativity, fear, and limitation. It's hard to keep our minds clear, and that's why it's so important to know that what we affirm is critical. What we're affirming all the time is the law. What you're affirming is what you're declaring and decreeing, and that's what you're believing and that's what you get more of. We oppose this power of God and of good when we are always affirming anything that opposes God and good. If we're giving that all of the attention and power, then that's what will be reflected back at us, because that's the impersonal aspect of law of this universe. We have to face that. It's not God punishing us. It's our own spiritual immaturity or ignorance that punishes us until we awake. The awakening is there for anyone who really wants it and makes it their purpose.

Denial is an important aspect of something to learn. It's not just a river in Egypt. It is to deny that there is anything outside of yourself that has power over you. That's an important thing to deny—not to deny you have a problem, but to deny that this problem has power over you. There is, at the same time, the importance of affirming that there is something greater in me than anything I am facing—any condition or circumstance. We have to know that, in order to get beyond it and get through it. Otherwise, we look at it, analyze it, study it, and know all the details

of it. Sometimes we have to do that in the healing process. We have that need. But don't lose sight of knowing here's all the truth and I've got to feed it equal or more—the truth of this being greater than that. What you mold can be remolded. What you create can be recreated. What you've made can be remade. That's the law.

We teach affirmative prayer, so it's important to understand how important it is. The word *affirm* comes from the Latin word *affirmare*, which means to make firm and assert positively. It's talking about your consciousness. This idea of what we affirm is significant. The writer of Job said, "Thou shalt decree a thing, and it shall be established unto you." Jesus Himself said, "Men will render account for every careless word they utter, for by your words you'll be justified and by your words you will be condemned." God is not condemning. God is not punishing. You, by your words, will be justified or condemned.

So what is your focus? Proverbs says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue—the power of the word." There are laws. When we affirm truth to the degree that we accept it, to the degree that we believe it, to the degree that we have conviction in it, it will be then acted upon by the law of mind in the universe, and we will see its results. The law is already equipped in knowing what to do. It's a law. It's no different than planting a seed or acorn in the ground and it knows what to do. You walk away after you've done your part, and it becomes an oak tree.

In the same way, our word is acted upon creatively by this creative, intelligent force that is law that is in the universe. Again, it depends on our understanding, our conviction, our faith, and what it is that we're believing and what we're saying. Affirmations are repetition. They go into the subconscious mind and create a track. We can teach animals that.

I lived on the edge of a swamp or woods when I was growing up, and my brother and I had exotic pets. We each had a pet crow at one time. My brother's pet crow was named Tommy. We trained him so it would fly and land on our arms. He wasn't afraid of humans. We brought him up from a little thing. He was a problem because he would go after the neighbor when she was hanging out wash. He also had an inclination to pick off the clothespins and fly off. He would stash them in the tree. So the neighbor's clothes were falling and getting dirty, and we'd hear about it. We had to give him away, and we gave him to a guy who was a widower living all by himself in the country, where the next farm was a long way away. His name was Bert Clump. He had a funny laugh and a proclivity to cuss. Every morning, Bert would get up and say to Tommy, "I want water?" Tommy had his own pen, like a chicken coop and as big as a bedroom, where he could be outside. Bert would give Tommy water in the morning. After a couple of years, Tommy would spread his wings with his head down and say, "I want water." Bert had a funny, distinguishable laugh, so the bird started saying, "I want water," and then laughing. He would always spread his wings and put his neck down like that and repeat. After he started mimicking him with the laugh, he'd say, "I want water," he'd laugh at Bert, and Bert would say, "Go to hell!" So the bird learned to say, "Go to hell!" So those were the things he learned—he learned to say, "I want water." He learned to laugh just like Bert. He learned to say, "Go to hell." When I

was in high school, I'd go with my dad to visit him once in a while and I'd bring a friend along because it was so entertaining—both Bert and the bird.

I share this story because the question is what are we affirming to the world? And what is it affirming back? Bert got back what he was saying every day, and so do we. We can be affirming our own hell and creating our own hell of an experience. It's the law. God can't help us until we open up. God can only do for us what He can do through us. So the world will make its imprint upon our mind and our consciousness if we're not careful. We can easily be lured into its negativity and limiting thought patterns.

There was a study done about investigating the effectiveness of subliminal advertising. They had an audience at a theater and ran several movies through a certain number of people to see how much popcorn they ate. They studied the number of people and how much popcorn was sold. Then, for 1/48 of a second, they put in a picture of popcorn and the word popcorn in random places through the same film. For 1/48 of a second, the slide would show up randomly through it. They sold seven times more popcorn.

Well, we have to realize that we are being shelled with information in this life, and it is all the more important to offset it by going to the spirit within that knows the truth. And if you don't, you're basically leaving yourself open. Jesus tells the story about one evil spirit who was swept out of the house—the house being your consciousness. Eventually it circles back to see if it can get back in. If it finds it's empty and hasn't been filled with the truth, it brings seven more as evil as it was, and the final state is worse than the original. You can read that story in Matthew. He talked about using denial—this does not have power over me, but here's what my life is about, and you better fill it with it. The container of your consciousness is very important.

What I want you all to realize is that we have our own household of God. Your consciousness is your household, really. We have to declare that that's just what it is—our household, our consciousness—and that it is a household where, in consciousness, nothing can enter that contradicts our union with God and our union with truth. There is no littleness, bickering, gossiping, unforgiveness, hatred, or meanness there if it is the household of God that you are claiming to be. There is only a declaration, an affirmation, and an expression of the peace of love, the love of God, the joy of God, the truth of God, the beauty of God, and the goodness of God. This house is protected from fear daily because it is a host unto God. That's a very personal heart-connected oneness with God.

An affirmation I like to say is: I am poised and centered in the Christ mind and nothing can disturb the calm peace of my soul.

Go in peace. God bless you.