

Becoming Who We Are Called To Be

Straining forward toward the goal, imitating Jesus, living according to His example, rejoicing in the Lord always, immersed in prayers of thanksgiving.....This is Paul's encouragement to the people of Philippi and to the people of Kanata and surrounding area.

I have fleeting moments when I think I can grasp the concept of the Holy Ghost, or Holy Spirit. I have a pretty clear picture, albeit my own, of who and how Jesus was. But God is more difficult. Over the years my definition has changed so drastically and I know it is still a work in progress.

Sometimes I wonder this - If God does in fact exist, then why doesn't God simply just show Himself or Herself to us? If God does in fact exist, then why is there not some objective, verifiable and convincing way that God chooses to demonstrate His existence.

Imagine a time when you were out of the city and the city lights, and you were looking at the night sky – enthralled by its magnificence. Sometimes the night sky is like a carpet of lights!

What do you think about this? Why not, on a night when we have all had plenty of notice, why doesn't God just use the stars to write out a message in the sky for all of us to see.

Something like **I Really Exist** or **Believe in Me....It's Not a Joke!**

That way, we would no longer have to believe in faith. We would actually know! Proof, once and for all!! Would that be so bad?

How would we respond if we were to read that in the night sky.....would we just automatically fall to our knees, would we dance before the Lord, would we sing and shout, would we be stunned into silence, or would we tear off running....either in fear or to tell the others? If God somehow told us that in fact He does exist, how would we respond? Would so rejoice and be glad? Would some regret that they had not known earlier and how

differently they would have lived their lives? I think that for once, churches would overflow into football stadiums and farmers fields. Crime would stop. A peaceful hush might fall over the whole world.

But then God's proof of Himself would have to keep blazing – it couldn't be just a one time thing. Something would have to be written and written again in order to keep convincing people that the message was not just some million- to- one freak of nature.

I think that we all want to be certain that God exists. We all, in one way or another want proof. I just do not believe that any kind of proof we might find, would sustain. I don't think it would last. In fact, I do not believe that it is even proof that God exists that you or I really need. I think the proof we need, is that God is right here with us – in the midst of the joy and sunshine, and also in the darkness, the drudgery, the heaviness, in the moments of

defeat and surrender. I believe that God does exist, and that God writes messages to us in the stars of the night sky and that in so many other ways, God tries to get through our blindness as we move around, knee deep in the busy-ness and the muck and mire of our lives. I don't think it is objective proof of God exists that we need. I think what we need is proof that God is present in our lives. Active in our lives. Alive in our lives!

I would venture to wager that we know much more about God than we care to admit. I also believe that God speaks to us, much more often than we realize. His message might not be written out in words in the stars. His message might just be written out for each of us in the hum drum and the exceptional events of our daily life. In the midst of unlikely moments and unlikely people, what will God say to us? Will we hear it? The not knowing what or where, or if makes each day a holy mystery, packed with the potential of a spiritual blessing.

There are certain things that I believe I know that God is saying to us....be kind and generous. Don't be selfish, tell the truth, take care of everyone else. I believe God speaks to us in words, in stars, in the beauty of creation, in the gift of one another. But I also believe that God speaks to us in the events and circumstances of our lives. If we are lucky, our eyes will not be blind to the fact that God exists with us.....whether it is in the laughter, or the tears, the delight or the fear. God is already there!

Right now you are going to hear another inspiring story about how Dave has seen and heard, felt and responded to the presence of God, not just existing, but existing with him in the midst of his life.

Amen