

THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST  
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(Excerpts)

We are ruled by automatic responses to negativity most of the time. The only way that you increase authentic spirituality is to deliberately practice actually enjoying a positive response and a grateful heart. And the benefits are very real. By following through our conscious choices, we can rewire our responses toward love, trust, and patience. Neuroscience calls this Neuroplasticity. This is how we increase our bandwidth of freedom, and it is surely the heartbeat of any authentic spirituality.

We find our ORIGINAL GOODNESS when we can discover and own these three attitudes or virtues planted within us:

A trust in inner coherence itself. "It all means something!" FAITH

A trust that this coherence is positive and going somewhere good! HOPE

A trust that this coherence includes me and even defines me! LOVE

This is the soul's foundation. That we are capable of such trust and surrender is the objective basis for human goodness and holiness.

What Love Tells Us About God. Love, which might be called the attraction of all things toward all things, is a universal language and underlying energy that keeps showing itself despite our best efforts to resist it. It is so simple that it is hard to teach in words, yet we all know it when we see it. After all, there is not a Native, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Islamic, or Christian way of loving. There is not a Methodist, or Orthodox way of running a soup kitchen. There is not a gay or straight way of being faithful, nor a Black or Caucasian way of hoping.

We all know the positive flow when we see it, and we all know resistance and coldness when we feel it. All the rest are mere labels. When we are truly in love, we move out of our small, individual selves to unite with another, whether in companionship, simple friendship, marriage, or any other trustful relationship.

To move beyond our small minded uniformity, we have to extend ourselves outward, which our egos always find a threat, because it means giving up our separation, superiority, and control. Men seem to have an especially difficult time at this.

Love is a paradox. It often involves making a clear decision, but at its heart, it is not a matter of mind, or willpower but a flow of energy, willingly allowed and exchanged, without requiring payment in return. Divine love is, of course, the template and model for such human love, and yet human love is the necessary school for any encounter with divine love. If you never experienced human love – – – to the point of sacrifice and forgiveness and generosity – – it will be very hard for you. If you have never let God love you in the deep and subtle ways that God does, you will not know how to love another human in the deepest ways, which you are capable.

Love is constantly creating future possibilities for the good of all concerned – – – even, and especially, when things go wrong. Love allows and accommodates everything in human experience, both the good and the bad, and nothing else can really do this. nothing! Love flows unstopably downward, around every obstacle – – – like water. Love and water seek not the higher place but always the lower. That's why forgiveness is often the most powerful display of love in action. When we forgive, we acknowledge that there is, in fact, something to forgive – – – a mistake, an offense, an error – – – but instead of referring to survival mode, we release the offending party from any need for punishment or recrimination.

Jesus is able to complete the circuit of divine electricity in certain people, healing them physically sometimes, but always spiritually. Don't mistake this is a direct current from Jesus to the healed person. Jesus consistently refuses to be characterized as a miracle worker, and he runs from both notoriety and fame. This is why after healing someone, he never said, "My magic power did it. Now come join my religion. Instead he usually says something like "your faith has saved you now go in peace." Matthew 9:22 Mark 5:30 Luke 8:48- I think humans prefer magical religion, which keeps all the responsibility on God performing or not performing. Whereas mature and transformational religion asks us to participate, cooperate, and change. The divine dance is always a partnered two step.

When we speak of Christ we are speaking of an ever-growing encounter, and never a fixed package that is all complete and must be accepted as is. On the inner journey of the soul we meet our God who interacts with our deepest selves, who grows the person, allowing and forgiving mistakes. It is precisely this give-and-take and knowing there will be a give-and-take, that makes God so real as a lover.

God unfolds your personhood from within then through a constant increase in freedom – – – even freedom to fail. Love cannot happen in any other way. This is why Paul shouts in Galatians, "for freedom Christ has set us free!" (Galatians 5:1) Remember again, God loves you by becoming you, taking your side in the inner dialogue of self accusation and defense. God loves you by turning your mistakes into grace, by constantly giving you back to yourself in a large shape. God stands with you, and not against you, when you' are tempted to shame or self-hatred. If your authority figures never did that for you, it can be hard to trust

it. But you must experience this love at a cellular level.

Every attempt to describe any and every action, or seeing in action, of God will always be relational, interpersonal, and loving – – – and totally inclusive of you. In light of the Christ mystery, and this unifying love by which the entire material world is governed, we learned that God can never be experienced apart from your best interest being involved. Hard to imagine, isn't it? Those who doubt it have never asked for it, or needed love enough to ask for it. Those who ask, always know and thus receive. Matthew 7:7

“If you, evil as you are, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly father give good things to those who ask him.” Human loves are the trial runs. Divine love is always the goal. But it can only build on all the stepping stones of human relationships – – – and then it includes them all. The receiving of love lets us know that there was indeed a giver. And freedom to ask for love is the beginning of the receiving. Thus Jesus can rightly say, “If you ask you will receive.” Matthew 7:7–8

To ask is to open the conduit from your side.  
Your asking is only second in the motion.  
The first motion is always from God.

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