

June 3, 2024

Daily Reflections



Center for Spiritual Development

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN BY GOD

By Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

Today's First Reading

Beloved,

***May grace and peace be yours in abundance
through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.***

*His divine power has bestowed on us
everything that makes for life and devotion,
through the knowledge of him
who called us by his own glory and power.*

*Through these, he has bestowed on us
the precious and very great promises,
so that through them you may come to share in the divine nature,
after escaping from the corruption that is in the world
because of evil desire.*

*For this very reason,
make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue,
virtue with knowledge, knowledge with self-control,
self-control with endurance, endurance with devotion,*

Reflection

Many years ago, I had an encounter with a woman who helped me realize the truth of the blessing uttered in the second letter of St. Peter: ***“grace and peace [is] yours in abundance through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”***

I met her at the reception following my grandfather’s funeral. She was a distant friend of the family. All I knew of her was that she was a single mother raising her daughter, who had Down Syndrome. Her life seemed lonely and hard.

She came to me and offered condolences. She then said, “I have been watching you and you seem so happy. I think it is because you know God. I have always wanted to know God, but I can’t know him.” I was surprised and touched by the encounter. I muttered my thanks and said, “Yes, I am happy.” I have never forgotten the encounter and have long wished that I had told her that the fact she wanted to know God is evidence that God knows her and desires her to know God, too. Perhaps she needed someone to point the way through the darkness.

Knowing God through the ups and downs of life has been transformative. Discovering God in surprising and ordinary ways, in many disguises in my life and that of others, has been a blessing, a consolation. There are times when God is as close as my breath; others when I seem to lose touch. Pausing to refocus is often helpful to my quest. A quote from a card by Sister Madeleva comes to mind: ***“God sometimes hides just around the corner and coughs to let me know where he is.”*** Coming to know God is never finished; it is a slow and gentle process. Being known by God is a grace and a peace like no other. God sustains, upholds, inspires, nourishes, and loves me, especially when I least expect it. I am blessed indeed. I have had many gentle and compassionate guides along the way.

The desire to know God is God seeking us out. Sometimes, it is a matter of learning to discern the face and presence of God in unexpected ways, places, and people. We need to assist one another to discover God in the ordinary, simple joys, delights, and precious moments, even when life is hard and lonely.

“May grace and peace be yours in abundance through knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.”



Woman standing on shore with rainbow
Photo by Ben Mack

For Pondering

- How have I come to know God?
 - Who has helped me know God in my life?
 - What are some of the surprise disguises God has used to woo me into relationship?
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For Prayer

*Almighty and eternal God,
please show your face to me in the people and circumstances of my life.
Help me know you more personally.
Teach me your ways.
Awaken me to your abiding presence and love found in every turn of my life,
in every encounter.
Help me recognize you in quiet, ordinary ways.
Fill me with your love and show me how to love like you.
May I be held in your peace and presence.
Amen.*

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