

Afterword

Find God

And what they have stammered ever since are fragments of your ancient name.

Rilke, Love Poems from God

Author Philip Yancey tells the story of the British novelist and playwright, David Lodge. David was in the audience of one of his own plays, a satire, the evening of November 22, 1963.

The audience was relaxed and enjoying the evening as a character in the play showed up for a job interview, demonstrating his indifference with a transistor radio clutched to his ear.

The character put the radio down and tuned into a station, allowing the news, music, and commercials to play in the background as the play continued.

That night the world heard a live news bulletin; a voice came over the radio: "Today, the American President John F. Kennedy was assassinated . . ."

The audience gasped and the actor immediately turned off the radio. Yancey goes on to say, "It was too late. In one sentence, the reality of the outside world had shattered the artificial world inside the theater. Suddenly, whatever action took place onstage seemed superficial and irrelevant." ¹

Like that English audience, there will come a moment in each of our lives when reality intersects our present and leave us dissatisfied and craving to know what is true. What had been perfectly acceptable a moment before, will now strike us as worthless and hollow. What is real will take on an urgency of huge proportions.

I don't pretend to know where you are on your spiritual journey. Heaven knows that those of us in the community of faith in the Christian tradition have not made it easy on you. Duplicitous, hypocritical, just about any

judgment you'd like to make about us is true. We have throughout history horribly represented the God we've professed to love.

Our failures toward the world are spectacular and worthy of deep repentance. But please don't let our ineptness keep you from finding God. If you're on an honest search you will be found by Him.

You will find He is not a loosey-goosey God with no teeth, a patchwork quilt God whom you can choose to create in your own image or fashion to your own understanding. No, He is the Creator of the universe, the God who, as C.S. Lewis said, is never safe but is always good.

The world is full of stories of atheists, agnostics, materialists, religionists, criminals, scientists, poets, and plumbers who have found or been found by God. If you are hungry and thirsty for truth, truth will find you.

God promises it.

If you truly ask God to reveal Himself to you, He will. Try praying daily for a month, "God, if You're real, reveal Yourself to me as You know Yourself to be."

God won't waste any time answering!

Perhaps you're genuinely full of questions. Maybe nothing makes sense to you. Maybe all religions feel the same to you. You don't have to embrace a full theological belief system all at once. You just have to embrace a Person.

Try saying your first "yes" to Jesus Christ. Once you've said "yes" to Him, other "yeses" will be likely to follow.

Living a life that outlives you takes on an entirely new dimension when you live in relationship with a generative God. You can hide behind intellectual arguments, or you can humbly invite Him to reveal Himself to you.

You'll find He brings to your life a new sense of transcendence, a new sense of destiny. This life is not all there is. As C.S. Lewis once said of this life: "It's just the preface and title page. The real story is just begun."

Finding God is not difficult, because in the final analysis, He finds you.

Max Lucado eloquently describes Him as “a God who would rather die than live without you.”

When God’s story merges with your story, you enter the world’s first and only meta-story. This is the overarching narrative in which every generation matters, where generativity is prized, where time is measured past your own personal lifetime.

You know you were meant for eternity. You know it because God wrote eternity on your heart before you were ever born.

Notes

1. Philip Yancey, *A Skeptic's Guide to Faith*. Zondervan, 2009; pg. 228
2. Check out <http://www.JesusFactorFiction.com>
3. For stories of people who have found God from many cultures see www.bridgemaker.tv