

FINDING GOD IN THE POST MODERN ERA

# FINDING GOD IN THE POST MODERN ERA

Develop A Deep, Intimate Relationship  
With God In The 21st Century

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# Foreword



You can't erect walls where there's no foundation. You can't add a roof where there are no walls. The life-changing facts about God couldn't have been added to my life hadn't a strong foundation of the Word been assembled inside of me while meditating on the Scriptures. The very amount of God's power in a believer's life is dependant on how much of his life is ordered by the Holy Spirit.

Believers need to learn how to live a life of power as they walk in the Spirit, forever building upon the foundation of the Word as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. So trust me when I tell you this: As you study this book and diligently apply its principles, the day will come when you review your life and say in awe and wonder, "I'm not the same individual. I have learned to walk in the Spirit, and it has completely changed my life forever!"

***Finding God In The Post Modern Era***

***Develop A Deep, Intimate Relationship With God In The 21st  
Century.***

# Chapter 1:

## *The Plan*

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### Synopsis

Someplace in the midst of divine planning, long before the eons of time began, God saw your name! Then He formulated a perfect plan just for you that's unlike any other plan for any other individual who's ever been born.

God formed a fantastic plan for each one of us. In His plan, we were foreordained to become His sons and daughters at the Cross. But one potential obstacle stands between us and God's perfectly formed purposes: utilizing the free will God has given us, we have to choose to walk in the plan he's ordered for our lives.



## **The Walk**

God seeks a way to approach each of us in order to introduce His personal plan for our lives. He encourages us to accept Christ as Savior and Lord. If we accept Christ, we take our beginning step into the plan God preordained for us. But if we resist Him, then like so many before us, we'll live and die without ever taking that opening move for salvation.

God had a complete plan of redemption and purpose for a person. If you've found the Cross and made Christ your personal Savior, nothing may stop you from discovering the remainder of God's plan for your life. All you have to do is decide to obey Him.

The Holy Spirit listens intently to each detail of your life as the Father planned your birth, your ministry, your successfulness, and each aspect of your redemption and personal life.

In fact, the Holy Spirit is the One who's been put in charge of overseeing God's plan for your personal life. And every time He searches your heart, He does it with the intention to pray that plan — the mind of God concerning you — into being in your life.

The more of God's plan we determine, the more the Holy Spirit (who's the Executor of spiritual law) will be able to bring natural law under subjection in our lives. Natural law governs the conditions that surround us, causing things to go for or against us — making us either wealthy or poor, ill or healthy, happy or sad.

But natural law is subordinate to spiritual law. And since the divine plan for our lives comes from the very heart of God, it's enforced as spiritual law.

The Holy Spirit continually explores your heart with the intention of getting rid of everything that is contrary to the will of God.

Then the Holy Spirit substitutes it with the plan He heard for your personal life before the beginning of time when God developed His plan for you. He prays the perfect plan of God into your spirit so you not only know what you're called to do but how to fulfill that call in the perfect timing, will, and might of God.

However, you can't discover the purpose God has called you to fulfill simply by reading His Word. Now, you may find out in the Word everything you require pertaining to the inheritance that belongs to each believer. You may learn all about salvation, healing, prosperity, righteousness, Heaven, the blood, and ministry offices. But you can't find out from the Word alone what God has called you to fulfill as a separate member of the Body of Christ.

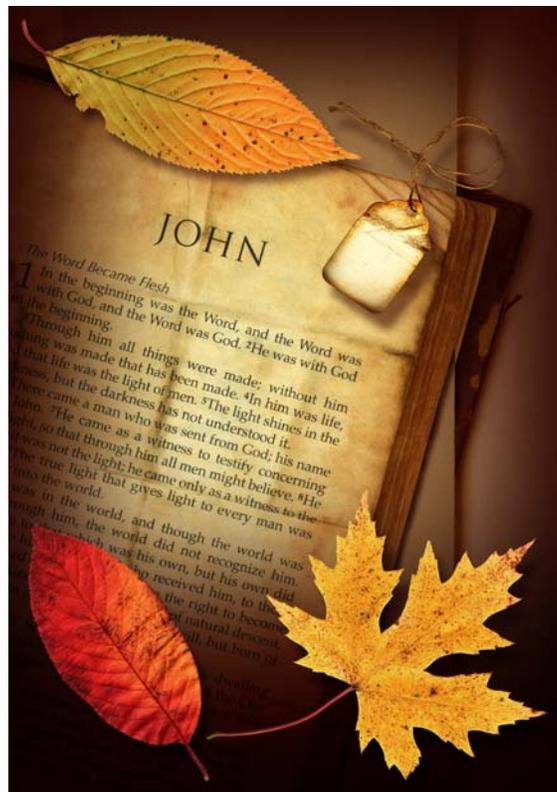
No one recognizes our calling better than the Holy Spirit. We're simply too ignorant to know how to pray about our call. So His great reservoir of wisdom and counsel resides inside our spirits, simply waiting to be released.

We might know how to claim our inheritance. We maybe great at declaring, "Healing is mine. Provision is mine!" But how may we get the tremendous power that resides on the inside of us —out onto the issues that face us so those blessings may be manifested in our lives? And even more significantly, how can we discover our divine call?

The day you decide to lock yourself in your prayer closet to spend some quality time with the Lord in prayer — that's the day you'll enter Heaven's classroom here on earth with the Holy Spirit as your instructor. You need that "classroom" if you're ever going to accomplish your divine calling.

If you'll faithfully continue to get to know God by His Spirit — and a crucial part of that process is praying — then five years from now, you will not be the same. You won't look back over the years and lament that each day was the same, one month just like the next, until 3 and then 4 years elapsed, and you wound up just as defeated and unchanged as you were at the beginning of that period.

No, if you'll pursue God by the Spirit, then at the end of 5 years, you'll be able to look back and see that you've experienced spiritual growth. You've changed for the better.



# Chapter 2:

## *Sing A New Song*

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### Synopsis

Psalm 40:3 states, "He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God". The most grueling time of the day for getting closer to God is first thing at the break of day. For some reason, upon waking up is when every negative thought intrudes on the mind. As soon as you open your eyes, set out by singing a song to God. Singing a fresh song to God will cancel out every negative, depressing thought.



## **Lift Your Voice**

How often have you heard this? It's a very common phrase among religious individuals. Individuals with particularly strong religious beliefs stating "Praise the Lord" has become as common or even more common than Bugs Bunny saying 'What's up Doc?' It simply comes to them as naturally as breathing.

To praise God is indeed something that God wants us to do, and to do as naturally as we breathe. Among the most common techniques of praising God is to merely say, "Praise God" or "Praise the Lord." Another basic way of praising God comes by singing hymns or songs. All of this is quite proper, as may be attested to by the inclusion of the book of Psalms in the Bible. There are likewise a lot of additional scriptures that will back up the utilization of song as a way of praising God.

As we may see, singing songs to praise God is quite suitable. God certainly looks favorably on those who sing hymns and praise Him through song. But is this all there is?

Not by a long shot.

There's yet another way of praising God; one which He looks upon even more favorably than he looks on verbal praise. This is praising God through action.

Faith and works go hand in hand- just like "Love and Marriage" (as the song goes), you can't develop one without the other. Good firm faith produces good works. Good works, in the name of the Lord, are the most adept way of Praising Him and His name. How? Good

works, in the name of the Lord, spread the word around that there are individuals who are endeavoring to be righteous, and follow God, and live up to the perfect standards He has set for us. They make individuals who have ears listen and eyes see, understand that God is righteous, He loves and cares about us, and He seeks to adopt righteous individuals into His spiritual household. To state these things to others is to praise God.

Leviticus 19:24 In the fourth year all its fruit will be holy, an offering of praise to the LORD.

This scripture refers to the planting of any fresh fruit tree, how for 3 years its fruit is forbidden and not to be consumed. On the 4th year, its fruit became holy, and the fruit became suitable as an offering to God, which is viewable as praising God. On the 5th year, the fruit is appropriate for eating.

Hebrews 13:15 Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise-- the fruit of lips that confess his name.

This scripture calls for a bit more insight for understanding. Note that Paul is saying that we ought to offer a "sacrifice" of praise. A sacrifice is commonly an offering made unto God, out of our resources, time, energy, or so forth, with no recompense to be sought or expected by us. But then Paul states "The fruit of lips that confess his name."

The key words here are not "The fruit of lips", which indicate verbal praise through words and hymns, but "that confess his name," which clearly entails preaching the truth of the Gospel and the sovereignty of Jesus over all but God, to those who have ears and may listen.

There are others, but these shall be left for you to seek out on your own.

So those who want to praise God through words and song, are free and even encouraged to continue to do so, for these things are thought good by God. But for those who discover themselves tongue-tied when presented with songs or hymns, there's great news.

One ought to praise God through deeds and good works that are the fruit and partner of faith in Jesus. With these 2 things, one makes high praise to God, and is on the way to joining God's spiritual household, the ultimate goal of each Christian man and woman.

Over the last few months God has challenged me with how I believe I worship Him and how he believes I worship Him. Sing a new song to Him. I was more concerned with what individuals around me thought instead of what God thought. This shook me a little because it hit home!

Our worship ought to be unconditional, completely for God. Our worship will never be perfect but as long as it's sincere. As long as our hearts desire is to glorify and exalt the higher power.

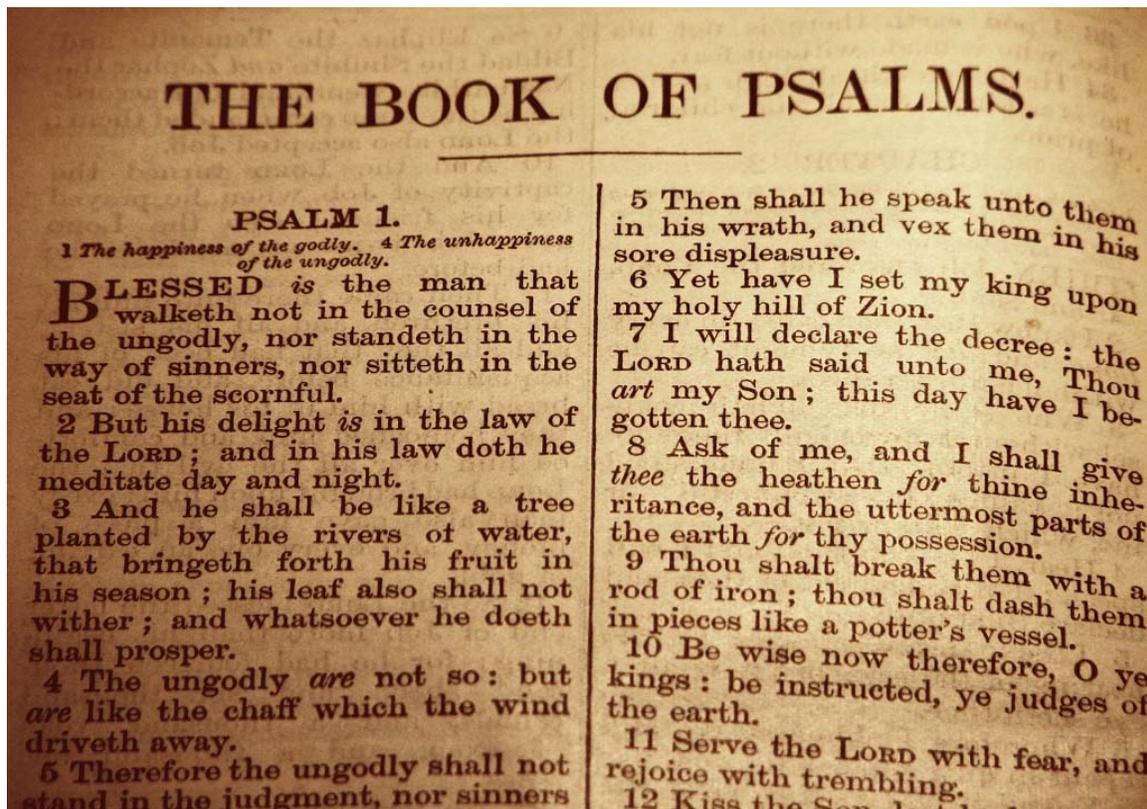
# Chapter 3:

## *Study The Word*

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### Synopsis

Among the most important essentials in the daily life of a Christian is spending time reading God's Word. The Bible is our "handbook" for living the Christian faith. In Psalm 119:105 we learn, "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path." The following is designed to help you develop a daily commitment to reading the Bible.



## **Study**

There are a lot of ways to study the Bible. This technique is just one to consider. Maybe you just want help getting started on your way. This particular process is great for beginners; however, it may be geared toward any level of study. As you become more comfortable with Bible study, you'll start to develop your own strategies and discover favorite resources that will make your Bible study very personal and meaningful.

In this technique, you'll study a whole book of the Bible. If you've never done this previously, begin with a small book, preferably from the New Testament. The book of James, Titus, 1 Peter, or 1 John are all great choices for first-timers. Plan to spend 3-4 weeks studying the book you've picked out. Probably among the most common reasons why Christians don't study the Bible is centered on this complaint, "I just don't understand it!" Before you begin every study session, start by praying and asking God to open your spiritual intellect. The Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness".

So, as you pray, recognize that the words you're studying are inspired by God. Psalm 119:130 tells us, "The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple". Next, you'll spend some time, maybe numerous days, reading through the whole book. Do this more than one time. As you read, seek themes that might be woven into the chapters. Occasionally you'll discover a general message in the book. For instance, in the book of James, an obvious theme is "Persevering through Trials". Take notes on the ideas that leap out at you.

Look likewise for "life application principles". An illustration of a life application principle in the book of James is: "Make sure my faith is more than just a statement - it should result in action". It's a great practice to attempt and pull out these themes and applications on your own as you reflect, even before you start using additional study tools. This provides an opportunity for God's Word to speak personally to you. Now you'll slow up and read the book verse by verse, analyzing the text, seeking deeper understanding. Hebrews 4:12 begins with, "For the word of God is living and active..."

Now let's see what it looks like under a microscope, as we start analyzing the text. Utilizing a Bible dictionary, search the meaning of the word living in the original language. It's the Greek word 'Zaō' signifying, "not only living, but causing to live, vivifying, quickening". You begin to see a deeper meaning: "God's Word causes life to come about; it quickens". As God's Word is alive, you will be able to study the same passage many times and continue to find fresh, relevant applications throughout your walk of faith. As you go forward to do this type of verse-by-verse study, there's no bounds to the wealth of understanding and growth that will arrive from your time spent in God's Word. For this portion of your study, you'll need to consider choosing the right tools to aid you in your studying, like a commentary, lexicon or Bible dictionary. A Bible study guide or maybe a study Bible will likewise help you dig deeper.

There are many useful on-line Bible study resources available, if you've access to a computer for your study time.

# Chapter 4:

## *Daily Devotional Plan*

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### Synopsis

Many Christians view the Christian life as a long list of “do’s” and “don’ts”. They haven’t as yet distinguished that spending time with God is a privilege that we get to do not a chore or a duty that we have to do.

Getting rolling with daily devotions merely takes a little bit of planning. There's no set standard of what a daily devotional time ought to look like. These steps will help you incorporate the fundamental elements of a solid devotional into the custom plan that's correct for you.



## **Make A Plan**

**Choose a Time.**

If you view your time spent solely with God as an appointment to be kept in your every day calendar, you'll be less apt to miss or skip it. There's no "right" and "wrong" hour. I prefer having my devotions first thing in the morning as this is the least likely hour for a disruption. I rarely get a call from an acquaintance at 6:00 a.m. Whatever hour you pick out; let it be the best hour for you. Perhaps a lunch break fits better into your schedule.

**Choose a Place.**

Discovering the correct place is key to your success. If you attempt to spend quality time with God lying down with the lights off, failure is inevitable. I chose to make a place specifically for my devotions. I picked out a comfortable chair with a great reading light. Next to it I placed a basket with all of my "tools" - my Bible, pen, diary, devotional book and reading plan. Once I get up in the morning, I merely go to my place and everything is set up.

**Choose a Time Frame.**

Again, there's no standard time frame for personal devotions. You have to choose how much time you may truthfully commit to daily. Getting rolling with 15 minutes a day may quickly develop into more. Some individuals may commit to 30 minutes, other people an hour or more a day. Begin with a realistic goal that you feel you are able to meet. If you begin with a plan of 2 hours a day, failure to meet the goal will quickly deter you.

## Choose a General Structure.

Spend some thought on a general structure for your devotional and how much time you'll spend on every element of your plan. This would be like a draft or agenda for your meeting, so you don't meander about aimlessly in thought and wind up achieving nothing. The following 4 steps will cover some of the typical elements you are able to include.

## Pick Out a Bible Reading Plan or Bible Study.

This might take some time, but picking out a Bible reading plan or study guide will assist you in having a more focused time of reading and study. If you simply pick up your Bible and begin reading randomly daily, you might have a hard time understanding what you read, or applying it to your day-to-day life.

## Spend Some Time in Prayer.

Prayer is merely two-way communication between you and God. Speaking to Him, telling Him about your battles and cares and then listening for His voice. A few Christians don't recognize prayer includes hearing. Remember to give Him time to talk to you in His still small voice. Also, one of the loudest ways God talks to us is through His Word. Spend awhile meditating on what you read and letting God speak into your life.

## Time in Worship.

God has made us to praise Him. You may express your praises silently or declare them in a loud voice. There's no correct or wrong way. You might even want to sing a song of worship in your devotional time.

### **Spend Some Time Writing in a Journal.**

A lot of Christians find that “journaling” helps them remain on track during their devotional time. You may journal your thoughts and prayers, providing a valuable record. Later you'll be amazed and encouraged once you go back and note the progress you've made or witness the evidence of answered prayers. Journaling isn't for everybody. I suggest you give it a try and see if it's correct for you.

### **Commit**

Keeping your commitment is likely the most difficult part of getting going. Decide in your heart to keep it up, even when you bomb or miss a day. Instead of beating yourself up when you mess up, simply pray and ask God to help you. And, make sure to begin over the next day. The rewards you'll experience as you grow deeper in love with God will decidedly be worth it!

### **Be Flexible**

If you get stuck in a rut, attempt going back to step #1. Maybe the plan you've chosen isn't correct for you. Alter it till you find the perfect fit.

Keep working at your daily devotional plan for twenty-one days. By then it ought to become a habit.

# Chapter 5:

## *Prayer*

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### Synopsis

Have you fought with prayer? Does prayer look like an exercise in eloquent speech that you just don't have?

Prayer isn't a mysterious practice set aside only for clergy and the religiously devout. Prayer is merely communicating with God - listening and talking to Him. Believers may pray from the heart, freely, spontaneously, and in their own words. If prayer is a hard area for you, learn these basic principles of prayer and how to implement them in your life.



## **Speaking To Him**

The Bible has a lot to say about prayer. There's no correct or particular posture for prayer. In the Bible individuals prayed on their knees, bowing, on their faces before God, and standing. You might pray with your eyes opened or shut, quietly or aloud—however you're most comfortable and least distracted.

Prayer builds up our relationship with God. If we never speak to our mate or never listen to anything our spouse may have to say to us, our marriage relationship will rapidly deteriorate. It's the same way with God. Prayer—communicating with God—helps us become closer and more intimately connected with God. Among the simplest reasons to spend time in prayer is because the Lord instructed us to pray. Obedience is an innate by-product of discipleship.

What if I do not understand how to pray? The Holy Spirit will help you in prayer when you don't understand how to pray.

There are so many prayers in prayer books from all faiths that we frequently forget that these prayers originated in an individual's vivid spiritual experience. When you feel motivated to produce your own prayer, you add to the positive vibes in the universe. The ones who hear will be inspired, too. Your prayer may be totally your own; it doesn't have to match the ones in books.

Contemplate on the situation that motivates your prayer. It may be a need for healing, for gratitude, for assistance or for any other happening in life. Consider what you want most.

Let words related to your prayer simply float up into your consciousness--names, questions, affirmations, even words from songs. You are able to write them down, but it's not called for.

One way to start your prayer is with a statement about what's occurrence and how you feel about it. You are able to likewise say a prayer on behalf of somebody you care about. You are able to start by saying what you observe. State something like "Joan is truly ill. She's feeling so tired and disheartened. But the family sees that she's determined to abide by this treatment, so we're determined to support her."

Then list the matters you want to mention. State something like "We remember when Joan was a little girl. She was the one who played hardest and longest and never let the rest of us head home till she stated the game was over. We're asking for healing for her today."

It's up to you if you wish to mention a particular religious tradition. Those prayers may add to your personal prayer, but it's your choice.

Add whatsoever is in your heart. Invite other people who are with you to speak, as well. Allow yourselves to cry or to laugh. This is a time for emotions to come forth.

Finish your prayer with words of hope, gratefulness or inspiration. A different option is to conclude with a song.

Show thanks to other people who have listened or shared in the prayer. This is a special time between individuals that makes life meaningful.

# Chapter 6:

## *Like Minded People*

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### Synopsis



The Bible encourages us to meet together on a regular basis with other believers. This is fundamental to spiritual growth. All the same, finding a church may be a hard, time consuming experience.

It frequently takes a great deal of patient persistence, particularly if you're seeking a church after

moving into a new community. Here are a few practical steps to remember, along with questions to ask yourself, as you work your way through the process of discovering a church.

## **Find Others**

While this resource is meant to offer practical steps for discovering a church home, prayer is of basic importance in the process. As you seek the Lord's direction, he will provide you wisdom to know where he wants you to fellowship. So, make sure to make prayer a priority every step along the way.

There are many Christian denominations to pick from, like Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Assemblies of God, Church of the Nazarene, and the list goes on and on.

If you feel called to a nondenominational or interdenominational church, there are a lot of different sorts of these as well, like Pentecostal, Charismatic, and Community churches.

It's crucial to understand the doctrinal beliefs of the church before joining. A lot of individuals become disillusioned after investing a good deal of time in a church. You may avoid this disappointment by looking closely at the church's statement of faith. Some churches even offer classes or written material to help you comprehend the church's doctrine.

Ask yourself, "Would I experience more freedom to worship through a structured or formal liturgy, or would I be easier in an informal atmosphere?"

Worship is the way we express our love and gratitude to God, as well as our awe of his works, and marvel of his ways. Think about what style of worship will let you most freely express adoration to God. A few churches have contemporary music, a few have traditional. A few

sing hymns, others sing choruses. A few have full bands, others have orchestras and choirs. A few sing gospel, rock, hard rock, etc. As worship is a key part of our church experience, make sure to give the style of worship serious thought.

You want your church to be a place where you may connect with additional believers. A few churches offer a really simple ministry approach and others extend an elaborate system of courses, programs, productions and more. So, for example, if you're single and wish a church with a single's ministry, make sure to check into this before joining.

Smaller church fellowships are commonly unable to offer a wide assortment of ministries and programs, while bigger ones can support an array of opportunities.

But, a small church may provide a more familiar, close-knit environment that a big church may not be able to cultivate as effectively. These are things to consider when viewing the size of the church.

In a few churches t-shirts, jeans, and even shorts, are suitable. In others a suit and tie or dress would be more suitable. In a few churches anything goes. So, ask yourself, "What is correct for me-- dressy, casual, or both?"

Next, take some time to list particular questions you'd want to call and ask before visiting the church. If you take a couple of minutes every week to do this, it will save you time in the long haul. For instance, if the youth program is crucial to you, place that on your list and ask specifically for information about it. A few churches will even

mail you an “information packet” or “visitor’s packet”, so make sure to ask for these when you call.

You may often get a good “feel” for a church by visiting its site. Most churches will provide info about how the church got started, doctrinal beliefs, a statement of faith, plus info about ministries and outreaches.

Before visiting a church, make a checklist of the most crucial things you hope to see or experience. Then rate the church according to your checklist once you leave. If you're visiting a lot of churches, your notes will help you compare and choose later. As time passes, you might have trouble keeping them straight. This will supply you with a record for future reference.

If you still don't know where to begin your search for a church, ask individuals you know—acquaintances, colleagues, or individuals you admire, where they go to church.



# Chapter 7:

*For The Spiritual And Non-religious*

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## Synopsis

You may find it fairly ambitious in the beginning if you don't have a sense of a higher power. Some call God, Source, Spirit, Monkey. What ever it might be for you it doesn't have to have a book written about it.



## **Higher Power**

The first time I attempted looking for a higher power, I tested a great big old oak. I simply wanted to place my fear and ambitions on to something that wouldn't talk back to me. I'd think of things I needed and required in my life and then leave them with the tree. I like to trust because I let my thoughts go someplace and not occupy my brain it allowed movement in my life to allow what I needed to come in.

One day I discovered a piece of bark while I was thinking about my mom and how she was no longer alive. I considered the bark and it had a smiling face with the rings of the bark. That happy face took away all the sorrow when I remember my mom isn't alive. I thought that was something greater than myself.

I started looking at individuals being messengers and angels. They likely don't even know it. Not to make individuals, places and things my higher power to speak through hoi polloi, places and things.

Example. I wanted to earn a set sum of money consistently, my thoughts stayed on that concept most of my days. I'd met individuals that eventually lead me to the individual that understood and could offer me the salary I wanted.

Another way I discovered a higher power was when I stopped attempting to play God. I had so many different arenas in my life that needed improvement, decidedly serenity yet my controlled plans kept moving in the way.

When I had an issue, a hard personality... I forgave that individual. I told myself that I'm powerless over the state of affairs with this individual.

I trusted something greater than myself may restore me to sanity and I was willing to give what ever that was over to something larger than myself, not knowing what that may even look like.

I let it go. I let go of thoughts that the individual was attempting to hurt me. I let go of thoughts that that individual needed to attack me. I dropped all fear and negativism and let the air take it. Inside days I felt a relief and freedom from thinking about this individual.

I don't know how it got removed. I don't' even have to know yet I do know as I was willing to let something else take over. I was freed up to let something better come in.

It appears to me to be a calming essence that graces me during hard situations and during serene times it's my commitment to pause and turn over anything I think is great or bad to something greater than me and then watch to see what that something greater than me comes up with.

It's forever something greater and better than what I may have ever imagined.

# Wrapping Up

Practice makes the difference. What did we ever "get good at" that didn't involve lots of practice?

Altering patterns, habits, routines might be hard, but know that you're really resilient and quite resourceful when you really want something. Choice is the key.

Making the choice to adopt some fresh patterns allows it to happen. God is always choosing to be with you, in any way, in any situation. The choice to get better at meeting God there is all yours.

