

Out of Religion—Into Relationship

-Going Deeper

As long as there has been humanity, there has been a sense of 'religion,'—a 'god-sense' in a way. It seems that there has always been a desire to be closer to some higher power; at the very least, whether we want to admit it or not, a sense that there IS a higher power. So, in order to have a good life, we need to be on the good side of the gods. This means we need to express value and devotion to them, we need to show a reliance to them and we discover over time that they have a never-ending appetite—they always want more from us and are never quite pleased with us.

Into this story comes the God, the One who claims to be the "God of gods," the One who is greater than any other power. And this One's different. This One isn't trying to get away from people, but instead is desiring to be closer to people. Similar to other gods, there is established a collection of activities involved in the worship of this God, but these are different—their purpose is to help people understand The Story—how His story comes together with their story. And this God makes it perfectly clear; He is "THE God of gods," not "a god with gods." In order for life to work, He alone must be the god that is worshipped.

And His worship is different; it shows people who He is. Read Deuteronomy 10.17-22, what should the worship of Yahweh look like?

If Deuteronomy 10.17-22 were to be written specifically to you, what would it say? Rewrite it here to more perfectly fit your story.

Imagine what it would look like to embody Isaiah 58.6-12. What will it take for you to be able to live this "true worship?"

True worship is driven by love and produces love. What needs to happen for this to become your everyday experience of true worship?

How do you imagine, God would describe your life and relationship with Him? Would He say it is empty religion or true worship? Explain.

Spend some time getting to know God more intimately. Give Him the freedom to do in your heart what He wants to do. Ask Him to help you see what He wants you to see and hear what He wants you to hear. And then listen.