

8

THE NATURE OF OUR CREATOR'S LIFE

What Kind of Life Does Our Creator Have?

Agnes Sanford,³¹ in her book, *The Healing Light*, says, “God is an active and powerful reality. He is the source of all life; the creator of universe behind universe; and of unimaginable depths of inter-stellar space and of light-years without end.”

To get a sense of who our Creator God is, take a good look at the pictures the James Webb Telescope have captured of extremely distant galaxies as they were only 100 million years after the Big Bang – which happened around 13.8 billion years ago. So now we will be able to see what happened beyond 13.7 billion years ago.

- In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).
- All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:3).

God's life exists in the form of real energy

God's life is a very real force, an active and powerful reality, built into the world to do His will.

“When God spoke, the life that was potential flamed into life that was real. The first light was the Word of God made manifest – the light of God's creativity. His word actually calls into being or draws toward one an essence of power, a living, moving energy that God sends forth to accomplish His will.”³²

- And the earth was formless and void [a waste and emptiness], and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and the Spirit of God was moving [hovering] over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light;” and there was light (Genesis 1:2-3).

³¹ Agnes Sanford (1897-1982) is known as the mother of the inner healing ministry. In 1947, she published *The Healing Light*, providing us with a practical theology of healing prayer.

³² Agnes Sanford, *The Healing Light*.

God is light

In thinking about the characteristics of God's life, we need to remember how John described Him as "light." God is both the creator of light and the personification of all that is light. God is light and He dwells within light.

- This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5).
- There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man (John 1:9).
- Who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see (1 Timothy 6:16).

My late friend Ralph Nault³³ had this dream years ago: "I looked up and beheld a beautiful city full of light. There was a broad highway leading right up to the city gates; the gates were wide open with no guards. I was puzzled because there was a line of people on each side of this highway, but they were all depressed looking.

"Then a person filled with light came walking right up the highway. All the people turned their faces away from this person filled with light. As the person walked right into the city, I thought, *that must be Jesus*, but then right behind him came another group of people. They were also full of light; they walked right on into the city. I then asked the question, 'Why don't these other people just walk into the city?'

"The answer came, 'Because they cannot bear to walk in the light and truth.'"

No one will be able to enter the City of Light if they are unable to bear light and truth. The only way to bear it is to receive the Spirit of Jesus Christ into our hearts. Truth is in Jesus! Then we are carrying the indwelling light and truth of the Son of God within us.

- The Lord is my light and my salvation (Ps 27:1).
- For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ (John 1:17).
- Jesus said: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me" (John 14:6).

God's life is infinite, everlasting

God's life is infinite and everlasting; it can never be destroyed, nothing can destroy it.

- In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend [overpower, destroy, extinguish] it (John 1:4-5).

The beautiful truth about light is that the darkness cannot overcome it. Darkness can never be so deep that the light of a single candle cannot push back the darkness. Try it!

³³ Ralph Nault (1932-2022) was an author, speaker, and spiritual father to many. He wrote and taught extensively on how to be led by the Holy Spirit. Personal Communication.

God's life is a creative energy, with a passion for beauty and perfection

As we said in Chapter 7, our God is a creator just as St. John explained:

- All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being (John 1:3).

The whole universe is full of it God's creative energy. Sanford³⁴ experienced His creative energy in her healing ministry. She says, "His creative energy (power) flows in a vibration like that of light or of electricity, creating health and beauty. The vibration of God's light is so very real that even a child can feel it, and it was my work with children that showed me the action of an invisible but powerful light-vibration shining from the Father of lights."

- Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow (James 1:17).

Sanford explains, "His works are done by a definite creative process and not by magic, according to the laws of creative action which He Himself has ordained. He does not break the laws of nature nor does He play tricks on us. He acts according to the laws of His own being, and that being is creative."

God's life is powerful

One of the first truths I learned once I began my spiritual journey was to place my faith in God and His power, not in what other people say.

- That your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God (1 Cor 2:5).

Our Sacred Text speaks about the power of God very often. I like how St. Paul prayed for the believers in Ephesus, and for several years I prayed his prayers for myself too, until God answered them.

- That you may understand the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe (Eph 1:18-19).
- That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man (Eph 3:16).

↳ *Who or what does your faith rest in?*

God's life is that of a good father

God is a spirit, infinite, eternal, unchangeable in His Being. Scripture ascribes to Him attributes such as: wisdom, peace, power, holiness, justice, goodness, truth. God is, however, more than divine wisdom, more than a current of power; our Teacher taught us that He is our Father, the one who created us.

³⁴ Agnes Sanford, *The Healing Light*, 18.

In *Behold Your God*, Agnes Sanford³⁵ writes, “God feels toward us as a human father would. Hence His life is nurturing, comforting, loving, sustaining, encouraging, warming, life-giving, wise, merciful, forgiving, healing, restorative, and regenerative.”

- I will be a Father [*Pater*] to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty (2 Cor 6:18).

In the Greek, *Pater*, simply means a father, i.e., by whom one is begotten; progenitor of a race, tribe or people; ancestor, forefather, patriarch; the author, source, beginner of something.

Descriptions of God as father

Let the following descriptions of God touch your hearts:

- Father of the heavenly lights (James 1:17)
- Father of our spirits (Heb 12:9)
- Father of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:3)
- Righteous Father (John 17:25)
- The living Father (John 6:57)
- Father of comfort (2 Cor 1:3-4)
- Father of compassion (*rahamim*) (Ps 103:13)

Rahamim, the Hebrew word for compassion, means God's tender compassion and comes from the root *rehem*, meaning “womb” or “uterus.” So we can compare God's tender compassion to the caring union between a pregnant mother and the child she protects and nourishes in her womb.

God is predictable

As father, God is not capricious, unpredictable, never knowing what to expect, like some of our fathers were. No, He works according to His established spiritual principles or laws and makes them clear to us in our Sacred Text.

But God does not automatically give us all that His Holy Spirit can give us. Because His goal is for us to grow up and become mature sons of God, not only His uncomprehending little babies. He wants to transform us into the image of his Son.

So sometimes He doesn't answer our prayers the way we think he should. Ralph Nault³⁶ once asked God why He waited so long to answer his prayer for the healing of his marriage. The Lord answered and said, “I waited until your prayer got bigger.”

God's life is spiritual

Jesus Christ taught us that God is a Spirit, and so His life is spiritual, i.e., not material, not open to scientific observation. This is why many people have a problem in knowing God. They try to experience God in the same way they experience the people around

³⁵ Agnes Sanford, *Behold Your God*, 1959. In Chapter Three, she discusses “The Nature of God and the Prayer of Faith.”

³⁶ Ralph Nault. Personal Communication.

them, in their natural minds and emotions. But because God is a Spirit, this is what we must be in touch with: our own spirit and the witness of the Holy Spirit in it.

- God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

Life is a mystery, creative, unique, instantaneous, purposive, metaphysical, and inaccessible to scientific observation. — Paul Tournier

Biblical descriptions and characteristics of God

Here are some descriptions or characteristics of God that I found in our Sacred Text. I pray they will give you more understanding of your Creator.

Faithful God	Forgiving God	Source of strength
Refuge for his people	Shade from the heat	Shelter from the storm
Defender of widows	Ever present help in trouble	Eternal king
Almighty, El Shaddai	Compassionate & gracious	He who comforts you
God of glory	God of peace	God of truth
Lord is my rock	Lord our shield	Lord who heals you
Lord who is there	Lord who makes you holy	Lord will provide
My confidence	My helper	My hiding place, shield
My hope	My light	My song
My strong deliverer	My support	My maker
My rock	The majestic Glory	The one who sustains me
The strength of my heart	Only wise God	Our dwelling place
Our leader	Our redeemer	God our strength
God who avenges me	The God who sees me	The just and mighty one
He who blots out your transgressions	God who relents from sending calamity	
He who reveals His thoughts to man	Him who is able to keep you from falling	
Him who is able to do more than we ask or imagine		

↳ *What characteristics of God have you experienced?*

What Kind of God Do You Have?

Although the way is open for us to draw closer to God, we have a difficult time with this because we do not know if we can really trust Him. We do not know if we can believe He cares for us like a good Father would care for His children. Can He be trusted?

Do you know God as a Loving Father?

The way we see God determines who we will let Him be for us, and how much we can let Him give to us. Our view of God determines what we will ask Him for, what we will receive from Him, and what we will allow God to do for us and through us.

It will influence our ability to draw near to Him, to tell him the desires of our heart, to make our needs known to Him, to believe that He hears us and cares, to show him our pain, our grief, our anger, to receive His love and comfort.

Our view of God will tell us if we can trust Him to do good things for us, if we can put our confidence in Him, and place our faith in Him and in His power.

Do you have problems believing in the love of God?

↪ *Using a scale of zero to 10, (zero being not true at all, and ten, being absolutely true) how true does the following sentence feel to you? Do not answer by what you know to be true in your mind, but what feels true to you deep inside.*

God is a good father who wants to give good things to me..... _____

God cannot lie..... _____

Is God good?

At the core of our problem in coming to trust God, is the question: “*God are you good?*”³⁷

- Does God *really love me*, or will He hate me if He sees me as I really am?
- Does God *really love me* or will He turn away in disgust?
- Is God *really good* or will He leave me in isolation? Will He offer His presence to others and leave me alone?
- Is God *really good and will He satisfy my hunger?* Or will He bless others and leave me empty?
- Is God *really just* or will He let the wicked win and prevail against me?
- Can I *really trust* God to protect me from harm? And if harm happens will he be there for me?

↪ *Which of the above questions do you most identify with?*

What Is the Nature of the Life We Contain?

Remember how God formed us out of dust from the ground and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, and we became a living soul (Gen 2:7)? God is a spirit, and from His Spirit He placed in his man, Adam, an impartation of His Spirit. As soon as the breath of life came into contact with his body, the soul was produced. Watchman Nee³⁸ sees the soul as a combination of our body and spirit. The breath of life became our spirit; that is, the principle of life within us.

- Then God said, ‘Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness’ (Genesis 1:26).

³⁷ Dan Allender & Dr. Tremper Longman III, *The Cry of the Soul: How Our Emotions Reveal Our Deepest Questions About God* (NavPress Publishing Group, 1994).

³⁸ Watchman Nee (1903-1972) was a Chinese church leader and Christian teacher who worked in China during the 20th century. His evangelism was influenced by the Plymouth Brethren. He published a 3-volume series, *The Spiritual Man*, 1968.

- With it [our mouth] we bless our Lord and Father; and with it we curse men who have been made in the likeness of God (James 3:9).
- For a man ought not to have his head covered, since he is the image and glory of God (1 Corinthians 11:7).

Made in the likeness of God, we have a spirit

Because we are made in the image of God, we have a spirit, but it is a human spirit. Our spirit gives us the ability to have an intimate relationship with our Creator, just like Adam did in the Garden of Eden.

- The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life ... I belong to God like you; I too have been cut out of clay (Job 33:4-6).
- Thus declares the Lord who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him (Zech 12:1).
- Who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of man which is in him (1 Cor 2:11).
- The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord (Prov 20:27).

Understanding “the spirit of man”

The spirit (*pneuma*) of man means a current of air; a hard breath (blast) or a breeze.

Dominican priest Richard Woods³⁹ explains the spirit of man in his book, *Christian Spirituality: God's Presence Through The Ages*. He says, “Drawing on ancient metaphors for “breath” in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin, *spirit* refers to the essential human capacity of our unlimited openness to being, to life, and to a conscious relationship with God.”

As a nurse, working with hospice patients, I often noticed the breath of a dying person as it left the person. Their life was gone! Nothing but a shell left.

Yes, we are living souls, with a will, emotions and thoughts, but we also contain a spirit. Because of the fall of Adam, however, we need to have our spirit activated. This is what happens when we receive Jesus Christ (regeneration); our spirit becomes quickened through the inflow of the Spirit of Christ. It is not just our spirit anymore, but God's Spirit becomes fused with our spirit, resulting in a new creation.

- Therefore if anyone is in Christ, this person is a new creation; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come (2 Cor 5:17).

Our new creation has spiritual senses. It is not blind or deaf. It can hear; it has ears. It can see; it has eyes. It can speak; it has a voice. We call these spiritual senses: *intuition, inward voice, inner guidance, inward witness, visions, and dreams*. This enables us to know what God is saying to us.

³⁹ Richard Woods (1941-) is a Dominican priest who taught in universities in the United States and England for 37 years. He has been an Adjunct Associate Professor in Psychiatry at Loyola University Medical School in Chicago since 1981. He also edited a journal of spirituality and published *Christian Spirituality: God's Presence Through the Ages* (1996), 9.

- Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God (1 Cor 2:12).
- For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God (Romans 8:14)

God is both within us and without us. He is the source of all life, the creator of our world, but He is also the indwelling life of our own little selves. Remember our Creator is Big! Much bigger than we can imagine. Earlier I mentioned this little book called *Mister God, This Is Anna*. This little girl liked to ask big questions like, *Why do people make God so small?*

When we receive the Spirit of Christ we have access to the kingdom of God within us; it is the indwelling light, the secret place of the consciousness of the Most High.

Partakers of his divine nature

Once we receive the Spirit of Jesus Christ into our lives and hearts, He is here with us every day. He lives and moves within us, and through His indwelling Spirit, He brings life to our minds and bodies.

Through Jesus Christ, we have access to the infinite gift of the life of God Himself. God's water of life can flow through us, if the pipeline between our spirit and God's Spirit is intact, in harmony with God. We can turn on this flow of living water.

- For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust (2 Pet 1:4).
- By this, love is perfected with us, that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world (1 John 4:17).

Spiritual growth

Christian spirituality refers to our human capacity to receive and transmit the life of God. Woods⁴⁰ explains that "spiritual growth may be best understood in terms of the particular forms in which the abiding presence of God is brought to ever fuller manifestation in the consciousness and activity both of individual persons and collectively in the Church."

- That they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and exist [are], as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children' (Acts 17:28-29).

My Story

I have already mentioned my big crisis, but I need to explain it so you are not ignorant about how you too can experience God and His power in your life.

⁴⁰ Richard Woods, *Christian Spirituality* (1996), pgs. 7-15.

It was 1970. I'd just received the news that our seven-year-old had leukemia. I knew that if I wanted to survive this, I needed to find a living God, One who I could experience. I had invited Jesus into my heart as a young teenager but had no confidence that I belonged to God or that Jesus had come into my heart.

Now in my crisis, I asked God to do something for me. I needed some kind of inner strength and inner power. I poured over Scriptures about being born again and the gift of the Holy Spirit, but nothing seemed to happen. I often knelt down beside my bed and cried out to God to reveal Himself to me. Nothing happened.

I tried following the steps in a book, reading the prayers, confessing His name, and praising God. But to no avail. Nothing happened. I was still the same on the inside. I couldn't find the 'magic' formula! Later, I learned that God waits until we search for Him with all of our heart.

- And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:14).

During this time, something unusual was taking place in our Sunday School class in Southern California. The room had swelled to overflowing with people standing at the door. An air of expectancy was present. People were searching for something — they wanted more. These were good church people!

I noticed that one couple in the class seemed different from the others. When they prayed, they acted as if they really believed God heard them. They even gave reports of answered prayers and physical healings.

Intrigued by the things they shared, I asked the woman (Nancy) to come to my home. I wanted to hear more. I wanted to know God like she did.

My spiritual foundation

When Nancy arrived, I did not know what to say. Feeling very nervous, self-conscious, and embarrassed, I blurted out that I wanted to receive the Holy Spirit.

She responded by asking me about my relationship with God. I told her about my church experience, going down the aisle at twelve to receive Christ as my Savior and of being baptized in water. I told her how I had dedicated my life to God at age 14 at summer camp.

I also told her of my fear of God and of my lack of confidence that He was *really* in me. I explained how hard I had been praying, and yet nothing seemed to change.

Then she said, "Let's begin at the beginning; let's talk about your spiritual foundation. Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?"

- By this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God (Heb 5:12).
- For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).
- And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God (1 John 5:5).

☞ *Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?*

The key: faith in my heart

Nancy explained to me the foundational premise of receiving anything from God: faith in my heart. In so doing, I was given the *key*, which opened the door for me to a relationship with the living God.

- Without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).
- So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Rom 10:17).

Even though I had prayed many times, went to church all of my life, been baptized, and walked the aisle to receive Christ, I had no genuine faith in my heart. My mind believed Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, but I had never learned how to apply heart faith in God when I came to Him. At thirty years of age, I finally understood.

- For with the heart man believes (Rom 10:10).

Nancy read out loud to me these words from our Sacred Text:

- Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it shall be opened (Matt 7:7-8).
- Or what man is there among you, when his son shall ask him for a loaf, will he give him a stone? Or if he shall ask for a fish, will he not give him a snake, will he? (Matt 7:9-10)
- If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! (Matt 7:11).

In another Gospel which ended a bit differently, she read again,

- Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by this son for a for a fish, will his father give him a snake instead of a fish will he? Or if he asks for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion will he? (Luke 11:12).
- If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask? (Luke 11:13).

When she finished, she turned to me and asked, "What does Jesus say a child will get if he asks his father for a fish? Will he get a snake?"

"No," I said, "The child will not get a snake; he will receive what he asked for: a fish."

She asked, "What does Jesus say a child will get if he asks his father for bread? Will he get a stone?"

"No," I said, "He will not get stone; he will be given bread."

Can God lie?

Then she asked me the big question, "Judy, can God lie?"

This brought me up short. She was asking me to make a *decision* about the nature of God. I struggled with it for a moment, dropped down into my heart, then I knew my decision. "No," I said, "I do not believe God can lie." My hungry heart was like a dry sponge soaking up the truths spoken by our Wonderful Teacher, Jesus Christ.

"Judy, Jesus taught that those who seek will find, and those who ask will receive. Jesus absolutely believed this. Do you? From what you tell me, you have been asking, but not receiving. Why? Does God, or does He not, want to give what is good to you?" she probed.

The law of faith

Now for the first time, I really *heard* the words of Jesus and they were united by faith in me. My faith expanded.

- We have had the good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard (Heb 4:2).

Under Nancy's guidance, I asked Jesus to forgive my sins and come into my heart. Then she asked me, "Now where is Jesus?" I answered, "He is in my heart."

Then she asked me why He was there. I answered, "Because I asked Him to come!"

For the first time in my life, I *knew* — I knew the Spirit of the Lamb of God had come into my heart. God was within me! There was a place within me where I *knew* for certain that my Creator had forgiven me, that I belonged to Him.

- For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Rom 8:15-16).

The promised gift

Then Nancy took me a step further. She said, "Now what about the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised?" I had been reading about it, and I knew this is what I needed, the power of God inside of me.

In the Gospels, John the Baptist talked about the promise of the Holy Spirit:

- He who is coming after me is mightier than I ... He will baptize you in (*with*) the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt 3:11).

And just before He was taken up into heaven, Jesus told His followers to wait for the Father's promised gift, which will soon be given to them in the form of a powerful baptism.

- Behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49).
- Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now' (Acts 1:4-5).

Again Nancy explained that we receive this promised gift in the same way we receive Jesus into our hearts: through faith. Feeling anxious, I went into my bedroom and got down on my knees and asked Jesus to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I simply applied my faith in a God who cannot lie.

When I returned, Nancy suggested we pray together using my new prayer language. Interestingly, as we prayed, we both were speaking the same sounds. She became excited and said, "Now I know why God changed my prayer language this morning; it was to be a witness to you that what you received was from Him."

- But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you (John 16:7).

The Sacred Text makes it clear that genuine faith is necessary in our relationship with God and in obtaining and receiving any of God's provisions and promises.

- Where then is boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? Of works? No, but by a law of faith (Rom 3:27).
- If any of you lack wisdom let him ask of God ... But let him ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, being a double-minded [hesitating, doubting] man, unstable in all his ways (Jas 1:6-7).

Faith is the most powerful force in the world. It can move mountains and hurl obstacles aside. Faith crushes fear and transforms the weakest personalities.

After Nancy left, I knew intuitively I was not to say much to my husband about my experience, but six months later he said, "I want what you have; you are different." So we knelt together in our living room and he asked God to fill him with the Holy Spirit. In a moment, he started praying fluently in an unknown tongue, just as it had happened at Pentecost.

- And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Acts 2:4).

About spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues

If you are curious, here are some things about tongues St. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth:

- For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men; but to God (1 Cor 14:2).
- One who speaks in tongues edifies himself (1 Cor 14:4).
- For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful (1 Cor 14:14).
- I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all (1 Cor 14:18).

☞ ***Are you aware of the spiritual and supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit?***

The power of God

God fixes cars

A few months later, Jerry was away on business in New York for six weeks. One morning, when I went to take our son for his weekly clinic visit, our car would not start. When I turned the key, the only thing I heard was a click. I started to react and feel sorry for myself: here I was left alone, with a tremendous responsibility on my shoulders. But then I remembered God and turned to Him, "Lord, help me, please start this car."

I turned the key, but the car did not start. I could not believe this was happening to me. In desperation, I prayed again, "Please Lord, cause my car to start. You know I need to get David to his appointment. I need your help."

Again, nothing happened. I prayed some more and turned the key some more, and finally quit in frustration. Going back into the house, I went into my bedroom, knelt beside my bed, and began to quiet myself in the presence of God. I read Scriptures from the Bible about God's desire to meet our needs. I reminded myself of the things I had seen God do already.

And I reminded God of the things He promised, I prayed in my new tongue. Soon my spirit was strengthened, and so was my faith. Finally, going deep into my heart, where my faith was, I prayed again and applied my new faith in the power of God. I do not remember all I prayed, but I do remember this: "Lord, would you start my car and cause it to work until the day Jerry comes home."

I went back out to my car. Standing beside it, I laid my hands on the hood, and in the name of Jesus Christ I spoke to it to start. I felt foolish, but I was determined to put my trust and faith in God into action. I got into my car, turned the key, and it started! I will never forget that moment: with my own eyes I saw the power of God being manifested in my experience. To me it was a miracle. Nobody would ever be able to take it from me.

Rejoicing, I drove to the clinic praising God, for He was truly with me. I was not alone: "I have a God who hears my prayers, a God who cares for me!"

Later, the most incredible thing happened! For the next six weeks, the car ran faithfully – until the very day Jerry arrived back home from New York. On that day, it stopped and had to go for repairs.

Faith works

It would take many pages for me to write about all the wondrous ways I experienced the power of God operating in our lives. We tried to apply faith in God in every area of our lives – fishing, weather, parking places, shopping, postponing a move, buying a house. God seemed to meet us every time. During this time, we also saw the healing power of God manifested in our family and in people around us.

Reflection Point

- ◆ Do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?
- ◆ Will you believe that God cannot lie? If so, tell Him.
- ◆ Can you believe that God is a loving Father who delights to give good gifts to you?
- ◆ What does this verse mean to you? “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord” (Proverbs 20:27).

Your Response

- ⇒ Write a letter to God telling him all the reasons why *you* find it difficult to trust him.
- ⇒ Or write about an area of your life in which you most urgently need to trust God.
- ⇒ Or write a psalm expressing your deepest laments and longing for God.
- ⇒ Draw a picture of “life,” as God has it. God’s life is like this ...
- ⇒ Or draw a candle to symbolize the life of God within you. Light is a symbol for the “life” of God that is alive within us. What is your candle like? What kind of container, wick, flame, condition, size, etc. does this candle have? Is the candle lit, burning, etc.?
- ⇒ Think about when and how you have used faith and be ready to share it with someone.
- ⇒ Say aloud every day: “I believe Jesus is the Son of God.”