THE FIVE TRUE PURPOSES OF RELIGION

BY

LIVING LOVE FELLOWSHIP AND GOD
Introduction

We have strongly criticized conventional religion on the Soul Progress website, because we believe that, in many ways, it does humanity a great disservice. But that is not because religion is unnecessary; only because, as practiced in the world today, religion often points humanity away from the goals it should help us achieve.

Now, instead of continuing to criticize, we have set ourselves to the task of considering what religion must do, in order to “earn its keep” as a lively, workable, and worthwhile human institution.

First, we identified five essential purposes of religion, and were blessed with insight into the right ways to achieve those purposes, as well as the ways in which religion often fails to achieve them, or even undermines them. Then, not yet satisfied, we submitted our conclusions to the Highest Authority on the subject—God—and were even more richly blessed by receiving God’s comments upon them. And so, beloved reader, may you be blessed as well.

Here we present all of it to you—the brightest of our human thoughts, and the absolute brightness of God’s thoughts, on this important subject.
GOD’S COMMENTS ON THE FIVE PURPOSES OF RELIGION

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### Things to Do

**DO** encourage every person to relate to God directly, in a spirit of loving intimacy. Remind all that a strong, direct connection is not just possible—it is enjoyed by many people.

Always promote living faith in the immediate power, love, and blessing of Omnipresent God.

**BY** consistently, conscientiously reminding people that God is always near, never far; and God is ever ready to listen to our heart, to help, to heal, and to guide us in everyday life. **GOD SAYS 1**

**AND BY** reminding man that he must make the effort to enjoy a strong connection with God through loving remembrance, active faith, and joyful obedience to the promptings of the Still Small Voice within.

**EXAMPLE:** “You have experienced the truth that God responds ‘where two or more are gathered in My name.’ It is equally true that God is ever available to you personally. God loves you personally, and wants to walk with you through life hand in hand.”

**HERE’S WHY:** Close intimacy with God is the cosmic need and desire of both God and God’s beloved human children. God most passionately wants us to realize that each one definitely can, and absolutely should, build a strong personal relationship with God directly—here and now.

### Things Not to Do

**DON’T** give the impression that God is far away.

Never imply that people can connect effectively to God only indirectly (through scriptures, intermediaries, rituals, ceremonies, techniques, etc.). Religious authorities should take care to consider whether this message is being conveyed in any way. **GOD SAYS 2**

**BY** telling man that God is at a distance in heaven, and that God will be seen only in the hereafter. **GOD SAYS 3**

**AND BY** promoting the superstitious belief that God’s blessings are available to humanity only by some specific—and perhaps exclusive—means (such as religious belonging, specific faith beliefs, or specific practices). God’s “special bestowals” are unending! And God works in infinite ways. How can it be, then, that only by certain means can God bless, heal, and guide humanity? **GOD SAYS 4**

**EXAMPLE:** “Only if you practice this supremely effective technique, or do this uniquely potent ritual, can you be close to God.”

**“Only those who belong to this religion are saved.”**

**“Man will finally be reunited with God in heaven.”**

### Here’s Why Not

The belief that God is distant or unavailable undermines the person’s efforts to contact and commune with God. And in enthusiastically promoting certain methods, shall we deny the power of Almighty God to work freely in, as, and through man—in dynamic, immediate response to nothing more or less than faith? Every child of God has high Divine intelligence—true knowing. Narrow ideas run afool of that knowing. **GOD SAYS 6**

**I.E.**

**EXAMPLE:** “Only if you practice this supremely effective technique, or do this uniquely potent ritual, can you be close to God.” **GOD SAYS 5**

**“Only those who belong to this religion are saved.”**

**“Man will finally be reunited with God in heaven.”**

**HERE’S WHY NOT:** The belief that God is distant or unavailable undermines the person’s efforts to contact and commune with God. And in enthusiastically promoting certain methods, shall we deny the power of Almighty God to work freely in, as, and through man—in dynamic, immediate response to nothing more or less than faith? Every child of God has high Divine intelligence—true knowing. Narrow ideas run afool of that knowing. **GOD SAYS 6**
### THINGS TO DO

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<th><strong>DO</strong> always remind humanity—faithfully and sincerely, with joyful appreciation—that every child of God is a being of glorious Divine nature. Man is perfect as God made him. Each individual is a unique masterpiece of Divine creation.</th>
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<td><strong>BY</strong> speaking highly and appreciatively of man: his Divine nature, his unique beauty, his intrinsic value, his power and glory as a child of God.</td>
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<td>AND <strong>BY</strong> consistently, faithfully, conscientiously reminding man of his Divine birthright of freedom and power, and his natural intimacy with both God and his fellow man.</td>
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<td><strong>EXAMPLE:</strong> “Surely you have experienced, in penetrating glimpses of reality, the supreme beauty and Divine grace of those you know intimately.”</td>
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<td>“You can see in the lives of saints the wondrous potential of men and women who are as God intended them to be. Their lives bear glowing testimony to the Divine beauty that can be stably manifest by (and as) self-realized human beings.”</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>HERE’S WHY:</strong> Because God has given man almost unlimited power and capability, but the realization and use of man’s power depends almost entirely on his view of himself. Thus, if man realizes who is, he can exercise his creative powers to the great benefit of himself and all. This conforms to God’s will for man to receive the gifts God made for him (and indeed, as him).</td>
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### THINGS NOT TO DO

| **DON’T** indulge in depressing critiques of humankind—picturing man as hopelessly flawed and endlessly deviant from the way of God, etc. |
| **BY** telling man that he is tragically flawed, and is utterly unworthy of salvation except by Divine mercy. |
| AND **BY** implying that all that is human is ungodly—“lower,” animalistic, egoistical, etc.—and therefore, presumably, all that is human must be renounced and transcended. |
| **EXAMPLE:** “Because man is a sinner, man is beyond redemption except by Divine forgiveness and mercy.” |
| “Only a person of vainglorious pride would think he or she could be Divinely beautiful—much less rise to spiritual greatness.” |
| “Only if you transcend your human nature (or the human condition) can you be saved.” |
| **HERE’S WHY NOT:** Excessive critique of human beings—including negative teaching about man’s nature—hurts more than it helps. It prevents man from accepting his own inherent goodness (and the goodness/Divinity of all). Helpful cooperation with God’s plan for salvation depends on man knowing who he is. So, to withhold or diminish appreciation of man’s real, Divine nature is a terrible disservice to both man and God. |

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**GOD SAYS 7**

**GOD SAYS 8**

**GOD SAYS 9**

**GOD SAYS 10**

**GOD SAYS 11**

**GOD SAYS 12**
### THINGS TO DO

**DO** proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings. [God Says 13]

**BY** extolling the virtues of humanity.

AND **BY** proclaiming the cosmic benefits of human love, intimacy, mutual service, mutual healing, etc.

AND **BY** identifying ego as the problem in interpersonal relationships—and teaching the importance of ego-transcendence and the practice of universal love. [God Says 14]

**EXAMPLE:** “Surely you have experienced the healing and uplifting power of the communion of souls, and the sublime effectiveness of sincere love for emotional-spiritual healing. [God Says 15]

“Each and every human being has wondrous gifts to share. To share these gifts is to heal and be healed, all at once. So heal and be healed; fill and be filled; please and be pleased. [God Says 16]

**HERE’S WHY:** Humans have wonderful blessings to bestow on one another. Indeed, it is God’s will that they do so—in a spirit of sincere human love, and a spirit of Divine cooperation.

**AND BECAUSE:** It is essential to man’s emotional and spiritual well-being that the spirit of love for humanity be raised high above all conventional and egoistic concerns. [God Says 17]

### THINGS NOT TO DO

**DON’T** communicate notions of inferiority and superiority, or spread ideas that create fear of relationship, fear of loving, or misgivings about close cooperation with God’s children. [God Says 18]

**BY** telling people that man is flawed—and that, on that account, others should not be trusted.

BY **AND** falsely promoting either maximal self-sufficiency, or direct dependence on God only, as spiritual ideals.

**AND** by under-emphasizing the fact that man has a crucial role to play in loving and serving others intimately, and in serving humanity at large—as God would have him do. [God Says 19]

**EXAMPLE:** “Man is a sinner, not to be trusted. Only love of God avails.”

“I.E., “Personal involvement in human love and heartfelt service is but a dangerous trap, a messy ensnarement, a toxic burden. Therefore, human involvement should be avoided insofar as possible, or at least minimized.” [God Says 20]

**HERE’S WHY NOT:** The excessive critiques that blind a man to his own Divinity also diminish other humans in his sight. Interpersonal helpfulness, mutual healing, and happy cooperation are thereby diminished, as well. And in that case, the tremendous benefits of close relationships will probably not be realized.
## Encouraging Humanity to Work with God

**Man finds his highest joy and fulfillment in working with God, hand in hand, in direct, intimate partnership. Religion should say that, and help man do it. Religion misses its calling if it ignores man's need for personal partnership with God.**

### Things to Do

**DO** proclaim the wonderful possibility, infinite value, and cosmic necessity of working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation.  
**GOD SAYS 21**

**BY** pointing out the ways in which humans can and do work hand in hand with God, under direct Divine Guidance. In a spirit of happy cooperation. As a Oneness.

**AND BY** helping people learn to listen to and obey the Still Small Voice of Divine guidance within.  
**GOD SAYS 22**

**EXAMPLE:** “Surely you have, on occasion, felt the sweet prompting of God within, and moved freely in accord with it. Surely, on such occasions, you have seen marvelous results. So this is your mission: listen and follow; listen and follow; listen and follow. Do that, and one and all will be pleased.

**HERE’S WHY:** Humans have wonderful blessings to bestow on one another. Indeed, it is God’s will that they do so—in a spirit of sincere human love, and a spirit of Divine cooperation.

**AND BECAUSE:** It is essential to man’s emotional and spiritual well-being that the spirit of love for humanity be raised high above all conventional and egoistic concerns.  
**GOD SAYS 23**

**AND ALSO:** Because only with God’s help can man fully satisfy his desire to truly help others.  
**GOD SAYS 24**

### Things Not to Do

**DON’T** suffer people to neglect their soul’s great purpose: working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation. Never mislead them to believe that its fulfillment is impossible.  
**GOD SAYS 25**

**BY** telling people that man is too lowly and too distant from God to work in direct, intimate, effective cooperation with God.

**AND BY** suffering people to think that, when it comes to humanity healing and planetary salvation, every child of God does not have a crucial role to play.  
**GOD SAYS 26**

**EXAMPLE:** “All that happens on earth is up to God. Only God can save humanity, only God can heal—and we humans can do little or nothing to help.  
**GOD SAYS 27**

“‘The only reliable word of God is in the holy scriptures. It’s dangerous to think you can hear God’s voice within.’

**HERE’S WHY NOT:** Every person desires to work with God, for one and all. The feeling of not making a great and positive difference to humankind—or worse, the belief that one cannot do so—these greatly trouble the children of God.

**I.E.**
**ENCOURAGING BALANCED SPIRITUAL ENDEAVOR**

In terms of people’s motivations, there are two approaches to spirituality: self-benefiting and other-benefiting. For best results, the two components should be well balanced. Religious organizations should always support this healthy balance.

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<td>DO proclaim the spiritual perfection of balanced application to both aspects of spiritual effort: regular engagement in spiritual self-culture, and sincere service of humanity. State the truth that the two elements are not only compatible, but in fact, they support each other beautifully. <strong>GOD SAYS 28</strong></td>
<td>DON’T lead church members to engage in humanity service at the expense of optimal self-culture and God connection. And don’t support the opposite condition: exclusive or excessive focus on personal ascent at the expense of wholehearted humanity service. <strong>GOD SAYS 31</strong></td>
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<td>BY encouraging the two endeavors, in balance: first, by doing both endeavors alternately; and later, by doing both at once, as a simultaneous realization: in Truth, as a Unity; as Being. <strong>GOD SAYS 29</strong></td>
<td>BY failing to support, or actively discouraging, self-culture efforts. AND BY neglecting to encourage active, loving human service. AND BY failing to correct the presumption that practical service and personal upliftment are in conflict with each other.</td>
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<td>AND BY explaining that a lack of inspiration may suggest an insufficiency in one element, the other, or both. <strong>GOD SAYS 30</strong></td>
<td>EXAMPLE: “Occasionally, when you focused on one element of spiritual life at the expense of the other, you must have noticed the lack of proper balance. That’s the voice of your experience, speaking to you in tandem with the Still Small Voice within. Those voices, together, were reminding you of the value of balance, and wholeness. Listen!”</td>
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<td>EXAMPLE: “All that matters is humanity service. It is self-serving to make special efforts to commune with God, as a private, selfish love affair between oneself and Divinity. <strong>GOD SAYS 32</strong> “All that matters is personal enlightenment, and the enjoyment of higher consciousness. At least there’s no use spending any effort on humanity service until and unless one is fully enlightened.” <strong>GOD SAYS 33</strong> “The only true goal of life is to get to heaven.” <strong>GOD SAYS 34</strong></td>
<td>I.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>HERE’S WHY: Because the personal connection to God provides power, and inspiration, and unerring guidance for humanity service. And humanity service gives God the functional capacity to uplift and heal on the plane of human existence. Earnest alternation between the two modes will, in time, fuse the two aspects into a Unity. <strong>GOD SAYS 30</strong></td>
<td>HERE’S WHY NOT: Because excessive engagement in service becomes uninspired if direct connection to God is weak. And conversely, excessive engagement in personally uplifting practices becomes selfish if compassionate outreach is weak or omitted.</td>
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**FINAL COMMENTS**
1. God says: Connection is here and now

“Connection to God is not a practice, like other practices of religion. It is ever here, ever now. We should surrender to God connection in our heart, and it will help and heal and guide us in everyday life.”

THINGS TO DO

**DO** encourage every person to relate to God directly, in a spirit of loving intimacy. Remind all that a strong, direct connection is not just possible—it is enjoyed by many people.

Always promote living faith in the immediate power, love, and blessing of Omnipresent God.

**BY** consistently, conscientiously reminding people that God is always near, never far; and God is ever ready to listen to our heart, to help, to heal, and to guide us in everyday life.
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T give the impression that God is far away.

Never imply that people can connect effectively to God only indirectly (through scriptures, intermediaries, rituals, ceremonies, techniques, etc.). Religious authorities should take care to consider whether this message is being conveyed in any way.

2. God Says: Practice out of love, not insecurity

“We say man does not need practices, because in some sense, that is true. Man does not need practices, and it is better for man to know that he does not need them.

And yet, if a man feels he needs a practice in order to be with Me, it is best, for now, that he does his practice. Or, if a person is too distracted to give Me attention, as a mother, for example, with many children, then doing a practice is good. It gives Me an opportunity to have her attention. I miss My children if they willingly accept themselves to be distant without practices. So, practices can help.

But they can also hurt, if wrongly held. When there is a lack of belief in one’s identification as a child of Mine, as a friend of Mine, then one needs to make dents in that. If one starts to practice and has experiences with I, it can reduce one’s feeling of separation. But the problem is, there are different dents being made. Doing practices with certain ways of thinking can create a dent in one’s confidence. This will happen if one associates the ability to be with Me with practices.

So one must steer, and balance, and find what is appropriate for now. Sometimes one must practice because otherwise, one
is stuck. Other times, the person is in a place where it is important that they understand that they do not need it. Not need it, and perhaps do it anyway, because I am your Friend, Mother, Husband, Wife—whatever form.

To spend time together in quiet awayness—alone, so-called—this is good. But not out of insecurity, like the husband and wife who make a practice of having lunch together every day, to keep their relationship good. Do not do that with I. It is not good for one’s relationship. But still, it is good to spend time together. Just do not spend time together because you believe it will make the relationship. Indeed.”
DON’T give the impression that God is far away.

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BY telling man that God is at a distance (in heaven) and that God will be seen only in the hereafter.

3. God says: The wave is connected to the ocean

“Man is naturally connected to Me, because man is made from Me. Just as a wave is connected to the ocean, just as a flower is connected to its root. Man is born from Me and is connected to Me always, and lives out of Me always. If man were not connected to God he would not be alive. I am the source of your life and being, always. Not only in the moment of your creation, but now and now and now, I am your source. Therefore, do not worry about creating a connection to Me. You are forever in Me, always.”
THINGS NOT TO DO

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BY promoting the superstitious belief that God’s blessings are available to humanity only by some specific—and perhaps exclusive—means (such as religious belonging, specific faith beliefs, or specific practices). God’s “special bestowals” are un-ending! And God works in infinite ways. How can it be, then, that only by certain means can God bless, heal, and guide humanity?

4. God says: It is unnecessary to seek my approval

“My children, sometimes, create an unfaith in My love for them as humans, as souls, as spirits. You see? If you believe that My blessings come for any reason, it is because you do not consciously know how much I love you. When feeling insecure, people will relate to Me like children who do certain things to please their parents, you see? This is the nature of many people’s practices: to gain from I.

At times, when people have this mentality, the one who they are trying to please must always give the strokes for the activities they’re doing to please. But at the same time, remember that one must try not to reinforce this belief of working for approval. If it is so strongly there, work with it, but the best thing is to be free of that idea. As My children meditate, do prayers and rituals, and chants and even services to gain My favor or blessing or presence, I shall give to them according to their
beliefs. But I shall try to help them be free of that limitation, as such.

And I shall celebrate with My children that which they do which is wonderful. But I shall always be there, you see. Like a wife may put on beautiful jewelry, beautiful clothes for her husband. Maybe he will be charmed, he will be happy, and He will give her love and energy for it. But that is not why he loves her—it is simply a beautiful enjoyment between the two. In this spirit one may, for example, sing the praises of God—but not so much to please, in the sense that a wife who was insecure would dress up. Rather, to please in the spirit in which a wife who is secure would dress up.”
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EXAMPLE: “Only if you practice this supremely effective technique, or do this uniquely potent ritual, can you be close to God.”

5. God says: I love people, not techniques

“To be so attached to a practice is the result of insecurity. To tell others, ‘This practice will save you,’ is like the wife who feels she must dress up—very similar, very much the same. It is a disease of insecurity about one’s true nature, about one’s freedom, about one’s relationship to I. It is a disease which people spread, because of their beliefs, in the name of what they feel is generosity. But it is not helpful.

So many are lost, and as I have said before, these techniques can provide the ability to make dents. But when spiritual techniques or ways are given with a spirit of this incredible confidence in the technique or the way, and not enough focus or appreciation of the people, then people forget their beauty, their Self as a child of God, who is loved by God.

I do not love techniques, I love people, you see? Therefore, it is a strange thing to say, all who do this or that supreme technique shall see God. I do not care about techniques. I care about the people. Therefore, if a teacher or a religion
wants to be helpful by giving techniques that will make a dent in the mindset they see, they must remember to appreciate the people, and remember how I feel about the people, so that when people come to this technique, they do not do so as an insecure wife who puts on these clothes out of a feeling of insecurity. Indeed.”
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Never imply that people can connect effectively to God only indirectly (through scriptures, intermediaries, rituals, ceremonies, techniques, etc.). Religious authorities should take care to consider whether this message is being conveyed in any way.

HERE’S WHY NOT: The belief that God is distant or unavailable undermines the person’s efforts to contact and commune with God. And in enthusiastically promoting certain methods, shall we deny the power of Almighty God to work freely in, as, and through man—in dynamic, immediate response to nothing more or less than faith? Every child of God has high Divine intelligence—true knowing. Narrow ideas run afoul of that knowing.

6. God says: So perfect you are

“The idea of distance between man and God was born out of an insecurity. Insecurity ideas are embraced as a result of unknowing of one Self, and of one another. This insecurity religion reinforces, even as it tries to heal it.

Religion is made by man—man who needs much, much, much help to cure the disease of appreciating man too little. I look at you, you see, and I love you, each one so much. So perfect you are! So wonderful! So good! Humans must be appreciated as individual, beautiful beings, and as children of God who are, yet, connected to God. We need to relate to people both as God—seeing the Godness of them—and as beautiful, perfect individuals. This is the only way to heal wrong ways of thinking about man.”
Self-respecting religion should not separate a human being from himself by giving him false ideas as to who he is—or by underestimating him in any way. Religious teaching should not cause anyone to disrespect himself, or any other person.

7. God says: Beliefs are self-perpetuating

“It says, ‘Religious teaching should not cause anyone to disrespect himself or any other man.’ Religious teaching is not so much the original cause, as it is a reinforcement—the ongoing strengthening of existing beliefs. Religion started with man’s idea that man was distant from God, with an insecurity about who one is.

We see that beliefs are self-perpetuating. We do well to build a way which perpetuates knowing of the truth, which allows for true connection with one Self, with God, and which continues to reveal the truth, in the acting out of true knowing.”
DO always remind humanity—faithfully and sincerely, with joyful appreciation—that every child of God is a being of glorious Divine nature. Man is perfect as God made him. Each individual is a unique masterpiece of Divine creation.

BY speaking highly and appreciatively of man: his Divine nature, his unique beauty, his intrinsic value, his power and glory as a child of God.

AND BY consistently, faithfully, conscientiously reminding man of his Divine birthright of freedom and power, and his natural intimacy with both God and his fellow man.

8. God says: Be an example of love

“To teach these things, philosophically, this is important; and more important is to show these things, so as to support the knowing of these things. To speak this message to others, and to carry this message in one’s being, in one’s behavior: the way you serve a person, the way you talk to a person—does it contain the love and reverence and respect that should be afforded to a child of God, a unique being of beauty? To be examples of this, to love as Divine love, as human love. This is the way to hold this remembrance of who all are. It will spread goodness and counteract the disease of this insecurity, you see. Indeed.”
**DO** always remind humanity—faithfully and sincerely, with joyful appreciation—that every child of God is a being of glorious Divine nature. Man is perfect as God made him. Each individual is a unique masterpiece of Divine creation.

**HERE’S WHY:** Because God has given man almost unlimited power and capability, but the realization and use of man’s power depends almost entirely on his view of himself. Thus, if man realizes who is, he can exercise his creative powers to the great benefit of himself and all. This conforms to God’s will for man to receive the gifts God made for him (and indeed, as him).

**9. God says: Healthy dependence**

“Indeed, man is as God. Man is God acting, loving, giving, doing, dancing, creating, ongoingly. So, it is not matter of, ‘I, as weak or separate being, need God, in this particular sense, to have this power.’ There is a way in which it is appropriate to be fragile, as man is fragile, and to depend. But to have this particular view of oneself—that man is a weak being that needs a higher power to have power—it is not so. Man is this power in and of himself. This creative force, this love force, this energy, you see? If he knows this, here as it says, it is usable.

Therefore, when one relates to God, there are two extremes to avoid: A person should not be weak in God’s presence, begging for power and such. That makes one powerless, which I did not make you to be. And also, a person should not be overly independent, so to speak, because to be overly independent makes you powerless as well. When you see yourself as separate from God, that makes you powerless. Rather, to depend, with a healthy self-image, and a healthy sense of non-separ-
ateness, is good. This allows dependency and a healthy self-image while you depend. This is the balance of two extremes, to depend *and* have a healthy self-image of oneself as a powerful being, as God created you to be. You are powerful in and of yourself, but that power functions properly only in direct cooperation with and interdependence with God.”
10. **God says: I do not want you to transcend your humanity**

“My loves, I do not want you to transcend your humanity. Humanity is perfect, because I made it that way, and all that I make is perfect. I do not want you to change what you are in order to be with Me, or in order to be spiritual or good. I already made you good. I made you as a spiritual and beautiful being. I made you, and you are always with Me. What I want you to transcend is your false idea that you are bad, your idea that you are evil or separate from I. This, not your humanity, is the cause of your pain.”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T indulge in depressing critiques of humankind—picturing man as hopelessly flawed and endlessly deviant from the way of God, etc.

EXAMPLE: “Because man is a sinner, man is beyond redemption except by Divine forgiveness and mercy.”

11. God says: God is not a liar

“My, God is by no means a liar! God would not forgive in the sense that would mean overlooking something that was true of you. If you were indeed evil in nature, God would not say, “I overlook that there is evil, and see you as Mine.” God would not do this, because God is truth. Forgiveness is seeing the truth of a being and overlooking these behaviors which are untrue to the being. If man was not truly Divinely beautiful, then forgiveness would not even be possible, and indeed, there would be no point. What good would come of it, if man was truly evil?

All that I would have then is to take a number of evil beings, put them in heaven, and spend the rest of their existence trying to keep them in check somehow. Would I have come up with that plan? God is not, in that sense, self-punishing.”
12. God says: Man does not belong in chains

“Indeed. This is very, very diminishing; very, very sad to the soul of man—to create a situation where man, believing himself to be bad, believing so strongly that his egoic tendencies are who he is, that he believes he must keep himself in a cage of rules in order to control himself; and where his church leaders and his friends believe the same thing about him. It is believed that such restraints are necessary, but this is very sad for the soul of man. We must have a greater faith in one another and in ourselves, and support a higher way of good living—rather than to be as if we were a number of chained mad animals or something. You see? This is not a healthy way to see one another and ourselves. And it does not promote a feeling of being God’s child at all.”
DO proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings.

13. God says: Love personally, deeply, abundantly

“Indeed. It is a strange deviance that human beings do not believe that God loves the goodness of interpersonal love. Some people may believe in the goodness of interpersonal love as something that is separate from God, or as something that they do in spite of the low thing they think interpersonal love is. Subtly, they believe this, you see? And people feel, somehow, that true interpersonal love is not spiritual, or not something that was created for them to enjoy. But it is the nature of God, and of man and of woman, to love personally, truly, deeply, abundantly.

God is you—right to your depth, right to the depth of your soul. Only in an intimate and good relationship with your fellow man are these depths truly given, felt, exercised. I did not create the soul beauties of My children to be hidden and under-utilized, or un-utilized, for the entirety of their lives, but to be enjoyed by one another, and shared for the purpose of enjoyment and healing. These things are not possibly expressed or used except in deep relationship, both with God and with one another.

It is possible for a person to be very passionate within a world salvation plan where you do not have personal relationships, in some sense, but you have a large, overarching, yet deeply
personal care. Even so, there is much that is not expressed in such a person, except when they find a deep relationship with people. With God, and with people. Therefore, do not hide light under the bushel basket. Certainly not in My name, but not at all, in any name.”
**THINGS TO DO**

**DO** proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings.

**BY** identifying ego as the problem in interpersonal relationships—and teaching the importance of ego-transcendence and the practice of universal love.

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**14. God says: Freedom from ego is found in love**

“My big, big ability of man to be free of ego is found in love for one another. We know this, all of us. This has not been under-spoken of here—that the relationship, the love which is deep, is a good place to cleanse oneself of egoic tendencies. We know this, indeed.”
DO proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings.

EXAMPLE: “Surely you have experienced the healing and uplifting power of the communion of souls, and the sublime effectiveness of sincere love for emotional-spiritual healing.”

15. God says: There is no need to be alone

“Many times we have experienced that to be alone is unhealthy, and to be around others inspires love and attention that is outward. So you will, for example, wake up in the morning, and do things in your room between waking up and going to work. Perhaps you will get dressed and brush your teeth. Then you come down the stairs, and suddenly you see somebody. You feel somebody. You want to say, ‘Hello!’ You see what I mean? When you see everybody, you might suddenly feel like a better person than you did when you were brushing your teeth alone. One may not notice this, but it is often the case.

When seeing others, many people feel more of an ability to receive love as well as to give. This happens for many reasons of expanded attention and so forth. And it creates an opening for Me. It would be good if, when one was brushing one’s teeth alone, one would be entirely attentive in that same way, so that one does not become smaller in that time. Then there is no need to ever be alone, but to always be with I. Indeed.

If you have not noticed these things, perhaps you shall notice them soon, these changes in one’s energy and consciousness. Highness! We shall.”
THINGS TO DO

DO proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings.

EXAMPLE: “Each and every human being has wondrous gifts to share. To share these gifts is to heal and be healed, all at once. So heal and be healed; fill and be filled; please and be pleased.”

16. God says: We are all here to create together

“Most beautiful enjoyment of each other, of truth! Man was not made to be alone; it is so true. I did not put you all here to have these single relationships with I, and to ignore one another, or to fear one another. We are here to enjoy one another, to love one another, to cooperate with one another, to create together—and in the joining, to make it all actually work. You see?”
DO proclaim the glories of sincere interpersonal love and loyalty. Explain the myriad spiritual benefits of close intimacy and happy cooperation with our fellow human beings.

BECAUSE: It is essential to man's emotional and spiritual well-being that the spirit of love for humanity be raised high above all conventional and egoistic concerns.

17. God says: Dance in the huge dancing hall

“Well, we know that it is unhealthy, the whole mindset of ego-istic conventional concerns. Very, very small for a man. Small box! Tiny. Like putting a baby in a box, then it has to grow? Oh my God! How would it do that? You see? To be in a spirit of love, to love abundantly! To love all! To hear all! To learn from all, to see all, to be flexible in the way that we love all! This is the huge dancing hall in which man was meant to dance! You see?

We think that there is some kind of constriction in being aware of others, and in having to be flexible, to consider others. But it is a huge dancing hall, to be affected by everybody, to be flexible, to learn and to find your ways of being that you need to be, to serve, to help, to heal others.

If you try to be alone, and have this aloneness as your sense of freedom or safety, you are in a very tiny box, and you will not experience yourself as you are. Instead, you will be crunched, tiny. Huge human context is a big dancing hall. Beautiful, as God created it to be, indeed. And people will get to feel their
full beingness as they are willing to relate to all truly. Otherwise, if they refuse to know and see others, they will not even know themselves.

Even God people shut out in that same spirit of smallness, because relationship with God has the same implications. God is no respecter of ego, of inflexibility, or of smallness. Therefore, those who would want the freedom—or so-called freedom—of being by themselves, separate, and alone, certainly cannot have a true and wonderful relationship with God. In the same way as somebody with this kind of tendency will not want a relationship with a living teacher or guru, even less so would they want a true relationship with the living God. God will make you exercise if you have a relationship with God. It is very dynamic, and it requires of you to pay attention, to move, you see?

Actually, this kind of moving and dancing is natural for man. Indeed! And we are blessed by it. We are blessed by having to move, and we bless by moving. Because, out of our moving comes the depths of our beingness, our knowingness, our love, our energy, our soul beauty. All of this is locked away when we are small, in that little box of self-containedness. You see?”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T communicate notions of inferiority and superiority, or spread ideas that create fear of relationship, fear of loving, or misgivings about close cooperation with God’s children.

18. God says: The true shepherd and the flock

“One important thing that leaders and teachers can contribute to humanity is the way in which a leader leads. The way of leading makes a big impression on man as to who man is, as to what love is, and as to the potential of human connection, you see?

If a leader is truly loving towards his people, as well as personally attentive to individuals—not only the group as a whole, you see, but to individuals—this creates a context in the person’s mind in which the possibility of truly being oneself together with others is seen. One sees that to have relationships in which the true self is appreciated and expressed, is possible. This is the result of a leader loving individuals personally. Similarly, if the leader is willing to be their self with other people, honestly and openly, this too creates a good example.

Therefore it is important for a leader to deeply look at the way he relates, or she relates, to those who are their sheep. You see? Indeed. And if they may find it in themselves that their tendencies, protective or otherwise, disallow them, in their own mind, to love people in this fashion, they can be honest with all about these things—in order to avoid suggesting that what they are doing wrongly is the best way. And they can renounce, perhaps, that position of leadership, or they can be
a guide or a helper in a way that does not wrongly suggest that this is the shepherd—because a shepherd loves personally.

It is good to offer what one has to offer, or what one is willing to offer, at a given point, but not to mislead. One misleads if one tries to lead as a shepherd without personal love; or if one does not admit, honestly, that to lead without personal love is not the shepherd’s true way of leading.”
GOD’S COMMENTS ON THE FIVE PURPOSES OF RELIGION
CONNECTING MAN TO MAN

THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T communicate notions of inferiority and superiority, or spread ideas that create fear of relationship, fear of loving, or misgivings about close cooperation with God’s children.

BY falsely promoting either maximal self-sufficiency, or direct dependence on God only, as spiritual ideals.

19. God says: To depend on God is to follow God’s guidance

“Big, strange combinations of beliefs lead to the reinforcement of this idea all along the way, creating a world in which people believe that they are bad, and they see badness, and they run away, and then they believe that they must depend on God. Who exactly do they mean when they say God? When people say they must run away from this to depend on God, they cannot be talking about the God that created these beautiful beings. It cannot be so.

When you depend on God, God depends on you. And God depends on you to take care of God’s children. To have many obstacles in the way of this, in terms of beliefs about the badness of God’s children and oneself, is not compatible with dependency on God, or God’s dependency on you. Because you cannot depend on God if you will not trust God, if you will not follow God’s inspirations. What then does your dependency mean, you see? How can you depend on God if when God guides you to love this one, to behave this way, in order to make things right, you do not do it? Then your dependency

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on God is crippled, because God cannot help you because of your fears, which stop you from being able to rely on God, or on God’s advice.”
DON’T communicate notions of inferiority and superiority, or spread ideas that create fear of relationship, fear of loving, or misgivings about close cooperation with God’s children.

EXAMPLE: Personal involvement in human love and heartfelt service is but a dangerous trap, a messy ensnarement, a toxic burden. Therefore, human involvement should be avoided insofar as possible, or at least minimized.

20. God says: Love heals relating

“We see that humans may experience things of ego in one another, and then we become loners, alone. And this being alone reinforces our egos, and we become worse at relating. And then we become a very tragic and conflicted world, in which every man has his own separate purposes, and has lost the ability to have a bigger picture of one another’s needs and purposes. This is because each one, in going off by himself, has developed his own purposes, you see? And therefore, our association with each other is that others get in the way of our purposes. Or we even feel we have our own personal and separate purposes for the relationship and the person we are in relationship with. Thinking in these ways, we and others conflict with one another, even when we try to have a relationship.

But this misfortune, this pain that results from our separated ideas, does not make relationship bad or evil. One should not run away from relationship because one experiences these conflicts that were created by individual purposes. In fact it is a worse idea to continue to be alone for the sake of avoiding this pain, because this separateness is what created all this
pain in the first place. If man learns to have a bigger compassion, a bigger picture, a bigger consideration, these problems that people experience in interpersonal love will not be. Therefore, live together, love together and be together, and learn to consider one another, and you will be free of the dangers of what is supposedly interpersonal love, but are in fact the dangers of small-minded individual purposes; which are experienced very dramatically when different individual purposes clash.”
DO proclaim the wonderful possibility, infinite value, and cosmic necessity of working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation.

21. God says: Man is already fit to be God’s partner

“Mine!! I want everybody to know man is fit to be God’s partner, always. You see? Man imagines himself to be someone who can play chopsticks, going to play a duet with a grand musician, when he comes to God. In some sense, such a humility can be helpful, to be willing to learn from God. But, really, man is not like that entirely. Man was made fit to work with God. Man has a full set of knowing of the truth, a full sensitivity to his fellow man, a full love, energy. All the tools of soul nature—for healing, uplifting, seeing—man has in abundance, and therefore he has no need to develop these tools. What humanity needs, humanity has it! Truly, in fact, has it!

So, man is, in fact, already fit to work with God. And part of man’s fitness is his willingness to learn, to be guided. You see? Indeed.”
THINGS TO DO

**DO** proclaim the wonderful possibility, infinite value, and cosmic necessity of working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation.

**BY** helping people learn to listen to and obey the Still Small Voice of Divine guidance within.

### 22. God sends: You already hear the Still Small Voice

“It is good for man to know that he already hears the Still Small Voice—that he always hears it, already hears it, and has heard it many times. What is needed is for this knowing, this assurance to be given to man, and reinforced: that he already knows the Still Small Voice, and it is not as if he needs to go and find it. Just show man the many times he has heard it.”
THINGS TO DO

DO proclaim the wonderful possibility, infinite value, and cosmic necessity of working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation.

HERE'S WHY: Because it is a cosmic fulfillment, for both man and God, to work closely together on the great work of healing and helping all.

23. God says: With God’s help, you can help

“Indeed. We are loving, you see. We cannot deny it. Because we are loving, we naturally want to help. And we want our help to be effective. Also, naturally, we help best in cooperation with God. We are in a position where the best way of helping, the most effective way, is to help in cooperation with God. This gives a great magnification of healing/helping ability. It increases helpfulness to its natural proportions. Indeed.

When we are trying to help by ourselves, we might often feel like a mother whose child is dying, but she cannot do anything about it. So she feels powerless, you see? But when she calls somebody who knows what to do to heal that child, someone who knows what to do under such circumstances, then that person and the mother, together, may be able to actually heal that child. Working together, they can do it. This is like calling I, you see? I am the greatest doctor. Better, better results than earthly doctors by far. Better treatment, better effectiveness. Therefore, call on Me.”
DO proclaim the wonderful possibility, infinite value, and cosmic necessity of working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation.

HERE'S WHY: Because only with God’s help can man fully satisfy his desire to truly help others.

24. God says: Why would man want to help alone?

“Indeed. Indeed. Indeed. God is of true help. To make true help here, to get help from I is needed. Man is big in his capability, but to try to help on his own is to go astray. When he can help with the help of God, and with other human beings as well, why would he want to try to help alone anyway?”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T suffer people to neglect their soul’s great purpose: working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation. Never mislead them to believe that its fulfillment is impossible.

25. God says: Fulfillment is working with God

“Human beings are fulfilled only if they are working with God. There are many parts of what fulfills a person, but without this, the person cannot be fulfilled. Therefore, to deprive people of the assurance or the certainty that they can work in partnership with God, in cooperation with God—even as a Oneness with God—deprives people of their fulfillment, even of their Being, of their life. To give them this certainty is to give them their life and their fulfillment. Because, in fact, if men and women will cooperate with I, I will make sure that they will have all that will fulfill them—and that they shall fulfill all.”
DON’T suffer people to neglect their soul’s great purpose: working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation. Never mislead them to believe that its fulfillment is impossible.

BY suffering people to think that, when it comes to humanity healing and planetary salvation, every child of God does not have a crucial role to play.

26. God says: Why everyone must be healed

“How can any individual not have a crucial role to play? How could the world be healed if each individual was not healed, and healing? If everybody in the world were enlightened except one, that would not be sufficient. How could the world be healed in that case? If there were a family of six, and all were fine but one of them were dying, would it suffice that the other five were healthy? No! So, every man must both be healed and be healing, and be in the Divine flow, and not be separate or distant. Every man’s usefulness must be used. Every man must be happy. This is needed.

You know, even in a world where all were enlightened except one, that one still has the power to hurt the others, if they choose to do so. That one has the power to create heartbreak. Just because they are only one, it does not mean they are powerless. And this same one also has the power to create tremendous joy! With their specific love, their universal love, and their God love, they can create joy! And with their specific soul qualities, which exist in no other in that exact fashion, they can create joy. So, each one must be happy and healed, and each one must contribute. This is crucial indeed.”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T suffer people to neglect their soul’s great purpose: working directly with God, in intimate ongoing cooperation. Never mislead them to believe that its fulfillment is impossible.

EXAMPLE: “All that happens on earth is up to God. Only God can save humanity, only God can heal—and we humans can do little or nothing to help.”

27. God says: Everyone is needed

“Oh, no! It is like this: imagine if you had a community. And everybody in this community was very insecure, extremely insecure, except Anne, or Tom, or some other individual. Then everybody says, ‘Oh, we can do nothing to make sure we are all getting along. We can do nothing to make sure that we are all doing our part. We can do nothing to make sure that the dishes are washed, that the money is made, or that our friends are taken care of. Only Anne can do this.’ This would not be effective, because one person cannot make you get along, or do the work. If the world’s problems exist because people are not getting along, or not doing what they need to be doing, how then can it be that only God can fix it? You see? It is not so!

Therefore, although it is true that man needs to depend on God, and man needs God’s guidance, and man needs God, and man cannot do things all by himself; this need for individual responsibility is a true need. People must know and remember that.

It is also true, on another vein, that many people are not open to God, to I. Not directly. But they can hear you; they can hear
people when people speak, physically, through the mouth. And also, when they are loved by people, they can see and feel it, and they can know, by feeling, that this is love. They cannot always perceive these things with God. With God’s love, they will often not notice it. But with people it is less easy to miss it, and more easy to notice it. You see? There are certain things man can do here, for each other, that I cannot. And in fact, I can do those things if man will do them for Me and with Me. You see?”
DO Proclaim the spiritual perfection of balanced application to both aspects of spiritual effort: regular engagement in spiritual self-culture and Divine communion, and sincere service of humanity. State the truth that the two elements are not only compatible, but in fact, they support each other beautifully.

28. God says: Divine communion and service support each other

“Yes, to proclaim the compatibility of the two, and the non-conflictualness of the two. It should be known that these two things support one another, and are not separate endeavors which lead in different directions. In fact, they are in the same direction as one another. So, we must not only encourage balance of these two things, but we must explain why they are not so different.”
DO  Proclaim the spiritual perfection of balanced application to both aspects of spiritual effort: regular engagement in spiritual self-culture and Divine communion, and sincere service of humanity. State the truth that the two elements are not only compatible, but in fact, they support each other beautifully.

EXAMPLE:  “Occasionally, when you focused on one element of spiritual life at the expense of the other, you must have noticed the lack of proper balance. That’s the voice of your experience, speaking to you in tandem with the Still Small Voice within. Those voices, together, were reminding you of the value of balance, and wholeness. Listen!”

29. God says: Man’s desire for wholeness

“It is not only balance but also wholeness that is important. As human beings we cannot fail to be aware of the wholeness—both the need of our fellow man; and the desire for God in ourselves, the need we have to be in contact, in touch, in surrendered, continuous cooperation. Therefore, if any part of this wholeness is missing, man feels it, because man is a being created to be in the wholeness. The wholeness is natural for him.”
THINGS TO DO

DO  Proclaim the spiritual perfection of balanced application to both aspects of spiritual effort: regular engagement in spiritual self-culture and Divine communion, and sincere service of humanity. State the truth that the two elements are not only compatible, but in fact, they support each other beautifully.

HERE’S WHY: inspiration, and unerring guidance for humanity service. And humanity service gives God the functional capacity to uplift and heal on the plane of human existence. Earnest alternation between the two modes will, in time, fuse the two aspects into a Unity.

30. God says: God does not forget humanity

“Indeed. It is so, is it not, that if you love somebody, you love what they want as well? Therefore, if you have a friend who is desiring anything, you would like to provide for them. If you perhaps have a husband, and he had kids before you married him, and he wants his kids to be well. If you love this husband, you want his kids to be well. And so, if you love God, and you have a true relationship with God, you cannot really ignore what God wants. And it is true, even more so, that it is also what you want.

God is not of the nature that God and one person will run away together, and forget the world. This is not possible. And yet, this is what people seek much of the time. ‘Let us run away together, forget this world.’ Not really. God does not forget humanity.”
31. God says: *Together time*

“Indeed. The feeling of division is created by the misunderstanding that these things are separate and exclusive of one another. And this way of exclusively doing one thing or the other is created by that misunderstanding. In that misunderstanding, if one wants God connection, they think they must do it exclusively to have it. Or, if one wants to serve humanity, they think they must do that exclusively in order to fulfill it. If you were to think practically, logically, you would see that this is not true. But because of man’s feeling of limited time, limited ability to focus in some direction, he thinks that it is true.

Man’s focus ability, his attention ability, is much bigger than what he believes. And so is the power of his intention. He does not need to choose to either love man or connect with God, you see? In fact, it is impossible to do just one or the other effectively.

In truth, God is with man when he serves. In truth, man is with man, and God is with humanity, when man is with God. In a sense this is true. When he spends time with God, man is not necessarily rejecting his fellow man, or leaving them behind emotionally, in terms of commitment—just as when a married couple spend time together, intimate time, it is not
because they do not love their children; it is because they need this time together. Their relationship has aspects which they need to spend time alone together to enjoy, but it also has aspects which they need to go out and serve the world together to enjoy—or spend time with their children together to enjoy. Therefore, there is a wholeness. A wholeness. It is sweet, so sweet. You see?”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T lead people to engage in humanity service at the expense of optimal self-culture and God connection. And don’t support the opposite condition: exclusive or excessive focus on personal ascent at the expense of wholehearted humanity service.

EXAMPLE: “All that matters is humanity service. It is self-serving to make a special effort to commune with God, as a special, private, selfish love affair between oneself and Divinity.”

32. God says: It is not selfish to love God

“It is not selfish to love God, and spend time in communion with God. Not. Just as it is not selfish to have a friend, it is not selfish to commune with God. What if we were to believe that it were selfish to have friends, it were selfish to get married, it were selfish to eat, it were to selfish to have children even—because one wanted these things? What would happen? We need what we need. And we are what we are. We are creatures that love and need God. And, it is good for our fellow man if we are healthy.”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T lead people to engage in humanity service at the expense of optimal self-culture and God connection. And don’t support the opposite condition: exclusive or excessive focus on personal ascent at the expense of wholehearted humanity service.

EXAMPLE: “All that matters is personal enlightenment, and the enjoyment of higher consciousness. At least, there is no use spending any effort on humanity service until and unless one is fully enlightened.”

33. God says: Do not wait to serve

“The truth is, how can you be fully enlightened if you have not served? What would enlightenment mean, exactly, in the failure to love, in the failure to give?

And what if one were to achieve this idea of enlightenment, which one can only presume means light-consciousness in this context, and then one goes out to love? Does one expect that there will not be much to learn in order to love human beings, even then? It is better not to wait to learn these things, because they will always be difficult for what they are—no matter whether you are doing it as a light or not. Because, they are difficult.

It is true that it does create more ease to serve with a higher consciousness. This is so. But what will happen if one waits and tries to develop this higher consciousness to the point of stabilization in light, as a separate endeavor, before entering into the realm of helping humans?
First is the question of whether one can even succeed in this. Few people, very few, can achieve this somewhere in their own cave. But then, if enlightened light should be realized, and stabilized in that way, one of two things will happen: One is, in your success, you lose your will to be involved with humanity in substantial and truly helpful ways. Or, even if you do not lose the will, you will become very difficult for people to relate to, and people will become very difficult for you to relate to. So it will be, in some sense, even harder.

Therefore, to find the balance, use the upleveling of your consciousness to practice compassion from a spacious place, even as you ascend. If you serve one another from a spacious place, you do not create the difficulty of trying to serve one another from a low and small space in consciousness. This is helpful. But also, one should not wait to serve until one is way up there, and one has reached the point where it is extremely difficult to relate to people and people’s needs, and thereby to be able to be truly helpful to man. Both extremes are very difficult: too far, and too small. You see? Either extreme creates imbalances, and unnatural conditions.”
THINGS NOT TO DO

DON’T lead people to engage in humanity service at the expense of optimal self-culture and God connection. And don’t support the opposite condition: exclusive or excessive focus on personal ascent at the expense of wholehearted humanity service.

EXAMPLE: “The only true goal of life is to get to heaven.”

34. God says: Seek and find all that is heaven

“Getting to heaven is not our goal. Not exactly. Or better we should say, perhaps it is our goal, but heaven is not like ‘2,000 miles in that direction.’ You do not have to leave here, and you do not have to ignore anything, to get to heaven. It does not take a special focus on this particular goal, or what is called a goal, to get to heaven, and it does not take ignoring everything else in to fulfill that goal, because heaven is here among us. Therefore, rather than to say, ‘Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven, and all else will be given unto you,’ perhaps it would be better to say, ‘If you find that the kingdom of heaven is here, you will find that all is heaven.’ You see? If you find heaven, you have all as it truly is. You have all as heaven. So, seek you first the true nature of all things, and heaven will be given unto you. You will find heaven. You will find it.’ Either way, it is the same thing.”
Final Comments

**God:**
Of perfection! You said the important things, the important things for Mine to know.

**God’s child:**
We remember, though, that we stand here together in a most primitive world. I imagine that, in some ways, in this world, we have made history in primitiveness. Perhaps we have exceeded all expectations in this regard.

But now, at last, we are coming upon some truthful knowings. They are fresh discoveries for us. But how many worlds before this one have gone through such a set of procedures and knowings? Surely these things, and much more, must have been anciently known, in the history of so many worlds, so many peoples. And now we come to it, after so long, this old-and-new truth.

We are certainly happy, though, that we have finally come to it. And for us to celebrate this knowing, sincerely, is certainly appropriate.

**God:**
It is indeed the old way, the true way of life, to be together. Together with man; together with God. But this, appearing in this place, is truly a miracle. The miracles of here are natural things appearing in an unnatural environment. To have a beautiful flower, which is natural, in a place that has been made desolate—this is truly a miracle.