

William Elliott's Questions:

On what main beliefs do you base your life?

Do you believe in God or an Ultimate Reality?

What is the purpose of life?

What is the highest ideal a person can reach?

How is this ideal attained?

What is the greatest obstacle to obtaining this ideal?

What do you think of death? What is it?

Why is there suffering? Why is there evil?

Do all religions lead to the same place?

What was the most significant thing that ever happened to you and that affected your life the most? What did it teach you?

If you could change anything in your life what would it be ?

If you were on your deathbed what advice would you give your children?

If you could meet anyone throughout history, whom would you meet and what would you ask them?

Do you think personal relationships interfere with spiritual growth?

What is important to you?

What makes you happy? Sad? Angry?

What do you feel life still has to teach you?

What are the three greatest problems in life?

Do you believe there is a basic difference between maleness and femaleness, besides the body?

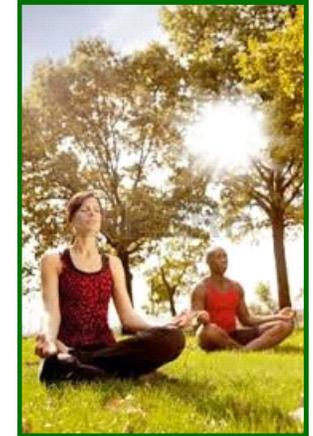
What made you approach life in this way?

Thank you for joining us!

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Prayer Leader: Mary Timko 6/7/2016

Living the Spiritual Life



Centering Space

A ministry of prayer,
listening & direction

Our prayer is characterized
by silence

Be still and know that I am God!

In that silence we listen for a new word.
God is present in all our lives.
God cares for us, and
our life experiences are a source
of deepening knowledge of God and self.

Inspired by God's Word in the silence
we share from our hearts.

To Ponder:

by Mary Timko

I took many things for granted before I broke my arm. Prayer is one of those things. Without prayer is a spiritual life possible? Ironically, I finally picked up a book that was recommended to me a long time ago, *Tying Rocks to Clouds*. William Elliott had his own misgivings and set out on a spiritual quest. Here are some of his findings.

"I have found that whatever we are, we have to be genuine, authentic. We have to be all of it. We can't just go to church and think we feel solid and good about it! A belief has to be really internalized to become part of our lives. I did my own growth work. I tried to get rid of whatever was negative in my life. Unless people resolve grief, and get rid of hate, rage, they're never whole. All of my learning has involved crossing paths of people who became my teachers. They were just special human beings who I met at the right time and I made one step further"

-Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross

"First of all, there was a reason I was born. Second, I believe that through my religious faith and through living in what I call the will of God, I can find that purpose. Third, the purpose, in my case, is to help whatever few people I can touch to realize their full potential as human beings. The highest ideal a person can reach is to reach one's true self and *best* self. The greatest thinker that ever lived is Jesus Christ. He laid out a way of life that worked and works. He is the greatest scientist of all time because he established a formula that can lead to the best possible result. The chief formula of Jesus was love. I agree with the writer who said Christianity should have been called Love-ianity, because Jesus was the first thinker in history to interject the philosophy of love into human affairs. Before his time, it had been force, hate and violence. But Jesus taught love of God, love one's fellow man."

-Norman Vincent Peale

"One thing I find is that we need the affirmation of others to keep us going. I believe in bands of angels, bands of secular angels who go out to teach and establish learning communities where people gather together and do physical, mental, psychological and spiritual exercises. They do what they do and keep on empowering each other. Our purpose is to share each other's pain. Our purpose is to learn how to be co-creators, co-transmitters of this planet."

-Jean Houston

I purposely chose different ways people found or encountered their own spirituality. Not so surprisingly, it is through other humans, religion and a belief in God, and a belief in community where people are empowered to explore ways to grow in confidence and a belief in one another. One theme that flowed through the entire book was that

Reading: Thoughts of a Blind Beggar by Straub

Hidden in the Ordinary

Listen to the silence of nature
and you will hear a symphony
Singing the praises of God.

In the incubator of silence,
wisdom and tolerance are born.

Leave room for the unexpected,
the moment of insight.

Don't shut the door on tiny epiphanies.

Every day carries the experience of presence
and absence.

Prayer helps you see the extraordinary
Hidden in the ordinary.

Our prayer life needs to move from being
mechanical and extrinsic
to being mystical and intrinsic

The only thing standing between me and God
is me

Sharing...

a word...

A phrase...

a reflection...