

## Finding God in an Open Bible

### 1. What is God's Word and what is it for?

#### a. **Communication**

**2 Tim. 3:16** (ESV) *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

- i. God's own consciousness
- ii. Breathed by the Holy Spirit
- iii. Into human hearts and minds
- iv. Progressive (2 Pet. 1:19-21)

#### b. **Communion**

**John 5:39-40** (GNT) *You study the Scriptures, because you think that in them you will find eternal life. And these very Scriptures speak about me! <sup>40</sup> Yet you are not willing to come to me in order to have life.*

#### c. **Union**

- i. Fulness of human capacities

**Colossians 2:9-10** (ESV) *For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority.*

### 2. Relationship with God progresses from:

- a. Communication.....communion.....union
- b. Personal.....intimate.....organic

**1 John 4:12** (GNT) *No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.*

**1 Peter 4:10-11** (ESV) *As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: <sup>11</sup> whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

### 3. Misuse of the Bible

- a. Relationship vs. "answer book"
- b. Text vs. voice
- c. Study vs. journey
- d. Facts vs. faith
- e. Labels vs. love

### 4. The Bible gets us ready for God

- a. Cleverness vs. humility
- b. Lessons vs. life
- c. Ideas vs. incarnation
- d. Phil. 2:13

### 5. God comes to you disguised as your own life

- a. The Sacrament of the Present Moment John Pierre DeCaussade
- b. Self Abandonment to Divine Providence DeCaussade

### 6. "The scandal of the particular"

- a. Most of the biblical text is mundane, daily
- b. Gen. 24:63

## 7. Incarnation destroys dualism

- a. Most of our life is lived in the daily, the ordinary
- b. Everything holds the great secret

**Eph. 4:6** (NLT) *...one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all.*

## 8. We are called to union

**1 Jn. 4:12-13** (GNT) *No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in union with us, and his love is made perfect in us.*

- b. 1 Pet. 1:4
- c. True biblical faith leaves us vulnerable to reality
- d. God is in everything!

## 9. Bad news: we are utterly exposed

## 10. Good news: we are constantly invited

## 11. Best news: we are always companioned

**Matt. 28:20** *I am with you always.*