

My God Adventure—Deborah Goaldman

I found myself at a spiritual crossroad at age 24. I had a strong belief system based on *The Urantia Book*, but it had not been personally validated. I was missing a vital piece in my relationship with God. And so, before me, two roads diverged. One was paved with belief that was easy to follow. The other road was made of the footfalls of inner experience and was less defined. The road of belief satisfied the mind and felt safe. The other beckoned to the soul and felt both adventurous and scary.

I needed to feel God come alive within me, so I embarked on the road of direct experience. I allowed myself to question my dearly held beliefs, even to be uncertain that God exists. You might be wondering, “Why would you do such a thing?” For me it was necessary to wipe the slate of my beliefs clean, at least partially, to create space for a new story that God and I would write on my soul. Who is God? Who I am? And who are we together? In this way I began in earnest the greatest quest of my life--my God adventure.

Uncertainty became a part of my spiritual life. The first question I faced was to pray or not to pray. I decided that prayer would help me to focus on my highest values. But my prayers began this way, “Dear God, if you exist” followed by what I needed to talk about.

Did the proof of God come to me immediately? Of course not! I was young and inexperienced with life. My spiritual intentions were often ambushed by the material demands of living. But experience has taught me that getting to know God requires getting to know myself. Such awareness calls for self-reflection on one’s thoughts, feelings, and actions. Knowing “what is”—without over dwelling on guilt or blame—is the starting point to achieving one’s goals. I had other lessons to learn as well: how to master my mind and how to live with integrity to my highest values. Self-awareness, self-mastery, and integrity are components of spiritual maturity, and these can take more than a lifetime to learn.

On my quest to experience God directly, I have felt a presence of enormous power within me. I know that most of this spiritual power is still held in potential for future ages to come. I have also felt an upwelling of jubilation from my spirit when I grasp a profound truth. But best of all is the all-consuming love that cascades from within as God embraces me. Words cannot truly describe this experience.

God has chosen to go on an adventure with each of us. He has literally given a piece of Himself to indwell each person, a spirit fragment that is in addition to the other divine ministries that are here to help us achieve our high destiny. This indwelling spirit is our spiritual DNA, our SPS (spirit positioning system), and our divine partner in this mortal life and the higher life to come. Like yours, my divine spirit desires to become one with me—to transform us into a glorified being that is the fusion of God and human. This is our destiny, and it will happen if it is our will to be like God in truth, goodness and beauty.

“There is in the mind of God a plan which embraces every creature of all his vast domains, and this plan is an eternal purpose of boundless opportunity, unlimited progress, and endless life. And the infinite treasures of such a matchless career are yours for the striving!” (*The Urantia Book* 32:5.7)

Say “yes” to your own God Adventure.