

## God's Ultimate Gift

The acute awareness of being totally cared for by God in body, mind and spirit is God's ultimate gift to us. This creates an unbelievable sensation within us that is not always present, but when it does come as a special gift it engulfs, engages, and envelops our total being. So powerful is this experience that one loses all concerns except that of total gratitude. One does not feel any pull of life in this world, but is above it all in a state of transcendence. While in this state it truly does not matter whether one is physically alive in the traditionally worldly understanding or not. In those moments one's spiritual life is so fully engaged and under the control of the



Divine that one is sustained entirely by God. That which one experiences is not unlike being on a special spiritual life support system, that supersedes and bypasses all other systems that sustain normal life.

In this gifted state one fully understands, appreciates and identifies with St. Paul's words: "For me to live is Christ; to die is gain". In that special moment it truly matters not if one lives or dies, for one is consciously in God's complete care. It is that and that only that matters in that moment. It is a pre-experience of heavenly existence. One knows inwardly beyond all doubt that God is present and in complete control of all things that in any way touch one's being. One's entire being is tilted toward God and God caresses one in an indescribable manner.

How does one arrive at this state of being? There is no how-to method which one utilizes that makes it happen. As in other love relationships, in which there is an ebb and flow of closeness and profound intimacy, one moves freely in moments of flow so as to be open to the flooding of one's spirit by the Spirit of the Holy One. One invites God in, asking that all barriers one has fabricated in weaker more fearful moments be washed away. Making oneself vulnerable is necessary for God to have access into one's being. Yet, even vulnerability is a gift for which we must ask.

Such closeness is a true gift. Special moments can be set aside for this to occur. One must reject the pressure of time and allow oneself to be swept out of the mainstream of daily living and into an eddy where there is stillness. There the sediments of turbulent living settle out and fall away, bringing clarity of perspective and clearness of vision. Thus one can see things as they really are rather than as they appeared in the distortions of turbidity created by daily frenzy. One must begin by truly desiring such freedom from stressful living and be willing to forsake it. That in itself takes tremendous self-discipline. The rewards are great. Gratitude replaces greed. When one senses that this transformation is occurring in one's life the ultimate gift is being received.

The above described experience is unique, and whenever it occurs, it comes as a surprise. It is always a gift that is designed to validate our faith and the authenticity of our spiritual journey.

