

## What is the nature of God? Pregnant mother

When we think about God we often imagine the creator of the universe as a distant omniscient being who exists outside of time. Someone who sees all of creation and yet somehow knows each and every creature intimately. That is simply incomprehensible for humans. Our own narrow perspective cannot allow us to grasp the nature of God and therefore many of us acknowledge God but then assume that since we can't really understand God, we also can't really know God.

Acts 17 tells the story of the way Paul described God to the Athenians.

*Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.'"*

When I read this quote, I think about the way fish move through water without knowing they are in water. Likewise, the way air moves into my body entering each cell to bring nourishment. I wonder if God is like the water to a fish or air to me or space to the galaxies. But then I realize that this idea falls short.

Air doesn't want us to find it nor does water long to be recognized by fish. Perhaps Julian of Norwich was right. Perhaps God is more like a pregnant mother in whom we live and move and have our being. What if all of creation exists within God and the breath of God moves within us. Like a infant in its mother's womb, all that we are has been created from God and yet we are distinct from God. Perhaps God sings to us as a pregnant mother sings to her child. Do you ever hear God's song?

