

## In Search of Spiritual Fulfillment

Society as a whole values intellectualism and physical growth. Unfortunately, it does not place a high value on the spiritual fulfillment of an individual. We are brought up to associate spirituality with rites and rituals of religious institutions. If people tell us they have devoted their lives to searching for God, we equate them with monks in a monastery sitting on wooden benches and praying day and night. In the past, people would leave their homes and their families to search for God in the forests or deserts. But with the advent of the industrial age, and now the technological and information age, more and more demands are placed upon us with regard to our time and attention. Today, it is not practical for people to leave the world to pursue spirituality.

But it is true, nonetheless, that people all over the world are searching for the solution to the mysteries of life and death. They are trying to discover what lies beyond this physical world. Recently published books and magazine articles, as well as conferences organized to investigate this subject, show that interest in spiritual pursuits is growing. More and more people are striving to achieve contentment and spiritual fulfillment. That surely can be seen in the following poem called *The Word*, written by Graeme Edge of the Moody Blues in 1968.

*This garden universe vibrates complete.  
Some we get a sound so sweet.  
Vibrations reach on up to become light,  
And then through gamma, out of sight.  
Between the eyes and ears there lie  
The sounds of color and the light of a sigh.  
And to hear the sun, what a thing to believe!  
But it's all around if we could but perceive.  
To know ultra-violet, infrared and X-rays,  
Beauty to find in so many ways.  
Two notes of the chord, that's our fluoroscope.  
But to reach the chord is our life's hope.  
And to name the chord is important to some,  
So they give it a word, and the word is OM.*

Although I have my doubts Graeme Edge knew it at the time he was writing these words, there are many biblical truths stated in the above recitation found on the album *In Search of the Lost Chord*. This whole “concept” album centers on a person’s search for spiritual fulfillment, culminating in the finding of the mythical “lost chord.” Just as was the case with the people of Athens whom Paul encountered in his day, many people today are searching for spiritual fulfillment, although usually in the wrong places. But as the Apostle Paul states elsewhere, spiritual fulfillment is available to all from God. He **can** be found. He **has** revealed Himself:

**20. Ever since the creation of the world His invisible nature, namely, His eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse; 21. for although they knew God they did not honor Him as God or give thanks to Him, but they became futile in their thinking and their senseless minds were darkened.** (Romans 1:20-21 [RSV])

Whenever I read or hear thoughts such as these expressed above in the poem *The Word*, I cannot help but be reminded of what Paul said to the Athenians in Acts 17:22-28 [RSV]:

**22. So Paul, standing in the middle of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. 23. For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24. The God Who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of Heaven and Earth, does not live in shrines made by man, 25. nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. 26. And He made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the Earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, 27. that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after Him and find Him. Yet He is not far from each one of us, 28. for 'In Him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we are indeed His offspring.'"**

The demands of modern life make it difficult for us to strike a harmonious balance in the development of our spiritual, intellectual, and physical aspects. The pressures of life force us to give more weight to our intellectual growth, for that is what counts in our schoolwork, our careers and finding a good job. Our physical side is considered to be important for good health. I value exercise and sports for my physical and mental well-being. Health experts today are pointing out how physical exercises also relieves stress, too, and stress is a leading cause of many health problems.

Several years ago, I was in New Mexico for a short business trip and remembered reading the local newspaper there. In that newspaper there was addressed an article about teen suicide. What caught my attention was the comment by a psychologist who shared that the reason many teens are losing their desire to live is the lack of one or more of three essential qualities that make life worth living: Faith, hope and love. You may recognize these as the same three qualities found in 1 Corinthians 13:13. But what do they mean? Each quality not only meets a basic spiritual need in our life, but it also answers one of three ageless questions.

Why I am here? Where I am going? Who am I?

God created us with a need to live meaningful lives. We want our lives to count for something, to hold some significance. We want to believe in something to answer the question, Why am I here? God's answer is a relationship with Himself based on faith in Him and His faithfulness to us.

God created us with a need to live confident lives with some sense of security. We want to know that our lives are safe and our future is secure to answer the question, Where am I going? God responds by giving us His promises of hope to ensure our future with Him.

God created us with a need to live valuable lives of self-worth. We want to be valued as a person and to be accepted as we are to answer the question, Who am I? God responds by giving us His love and calling us His children.

Jesus regularly used everyday objects to illustrate eternal truths. He used water and thirst to illustrate our desire for a fulfilling life. An example of spiritual fulfillment was the Samaritan woman. Although the woman of Samaria had come to draw water from the well to quench her physical thirst, Jesus discerned that she also had a spiritual thirst which the things of the world could not quench. Jesus observes that physical water quenches thirst only temporarily. Eventually, we will thirst again. When the woman showed interest in obtaining the water that quenches thirst once and for all, Jesus confronts her with a request intended to show her what she is really thirsting for (self-worth, security and significance) and the inadequate source she was "drinking" from (the various men in her life). These men fulfilled her need for self-worth, significance and security only temporarily.

I want to share with you now a simply amazing but true story. Remember how I stated earlier that the poem *The Word* by Graeme Edge had many biblical truths in it? It really does. "*This garden universe vibrates complete,*" he wrote. How true that is! According to current scientific thought, evidence supports the theory that the universe began with a gigantic explosion called the big bang. As a result, the universe continues to expand even today. This miraculous explosion left behind clues that still reside in the universe. Background radiation in the cosmos is a clear indication that the big bang occurred. Everything in God's creation vibrates complete! These big bang ripples, these **vibrations**, scientifically substantiate the big bang model prediction. By studying the almost infinite number of constants in the universe such as the speed of light, gravity and nuclear forces, it is easy to see that the universe was carefully crafted and designed.

But what **caused** the big bang itself? *There is no logical explanation outside of God the Creator to suggest a cause for the big bang.* In 1966, astrophysicists George Ellis, Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose expanded Einstein's relativity equations. They concluded that there must be a singular origin point in the finite

past for not only matter and energy, but space and time as well. This is now known as the space-time theorem of general relativity, and what they determined was *there had to be a Creator!*

Those of us with faith have known this because we have trusted in God and His word. The universe did not come into being on its own, God **caused** it to come into being. He spoke it into existence, and *speech is caused by vibrations*. **“By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear”** (Hebrews 11:3 [RSV]).

Now back to that amazing story. It is not just the distant galaxies of the cosmos that “vibrates complete.” Everything in God’s creation vibrates! Even water, the medium for all life to be sustained, vibrates and responds to the conditions of its environment.

Even children know that when snow falls, each flake is individually unique in its appearance and makeup. But what was not discovered until the 1990s by a Japanese researcher named Masaru Emoto was that water itself forms unique crystals at the microscopic level when frozen, and these, in turn, respond to beautiful music, which is itself caused by harmonic vibrations.

*Vibrations reach on up to become light,  
And then through gamma, out of sight.*

Graeme Edge’s poem continued touching upon some great truths found within God’s word. Superstring theory attempts to describe elemental particle physics using ‘strings’ to illustrate its meaning. (I, personally, prefer to think of them in terms of rubber bands, rather than strings.) By treating subatomic particle structures as strings or rubber bands, it is possible to see that different vibrations or ‘notes’ of these strings will produce different subatomic particles. This is the most accepted theory that explains the beginning of the universe and the underlying structure that is the building block for matter and energy.

One aspect of superstring theory that is most intriguing is the concept of extra-dimensionality. Extra dimensions consist of both space and time dimensions. Such extra-dimensionality explains how God can still be a part of the universe today, and yet remain hidden from human senses.

We see because our eyes were designed to see the visible light wavelengths of the spectrum. But the shorter the wavelength of light is, the more energy it possesses. And the more energy it possesses, the less it can be seen physically, even though it grows in power. That is why we cannot see gamma rays, X-rays, and ultraviolet light. And that is why we cannot see God, for He is pure light, He is pure energy. There are many passages of Scripture that speak

of God being light, but let us look now at a few from the Apostle John, beginning with the *Gospel of John*:

**4. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. 6. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. 8. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. 9. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.** (John 1:4-9)

John later added in chapter 3:19-21, **19. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.**

John continued his teaching of Jesus as light when he penned his general epistles.

**5. This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 6. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7. But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.** (1 John 1:5-7)

**8. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in Him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. 9. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.** (1 John 2:8-11)

Finally, in the *Book of Revelation*, John writes the following: **“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof”** (Revelation 21:23).

The Scriptures tell us that God is light, and in Him there is no darkness. Science tells us that the higher the energy level of a wavelength of light, the less visible it becomes. It is invisible, and yet it becomes increasingly powerful. Nothing is more powerful than God Almighty, He Who proclaims in His holy word that He is light, and yet for centuries mankind could not understand how God could be both

light and simultaneously invisible! Now we know. So despite their best efforts to deny and disprove the existence of God, scientists keep **proving** His existence!

*And to hear the sun, what a thing to believe!  
But it's all around if we could but perceive.*

Once again, Graeme Edge accidentally stumbled upon a great truth found in God's word in his beautiful poem. David said some 3,000 years ago, "**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork**" (Psalm 19:1). This may not just be figurative language he was using. Let us examine a few more of these of these verses in Psalm 19:

**2. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.**

**3. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.** (Psalm 19:2-3) How beautifully written are these words, and yet, they reveal a deeper truth than what appears on the surface of this lyrical Hebrew poetry. It was not until 1932 that it was discovered that stars literally had voices! Objects in space, such as planets and comets, giant clouds of gas and dust, and stars and galaxies, all emit light at many different wavelengths. Some of the light they emit has very large wavelengths – sometimes as long as a mile! These long waves are in the radio region of the electromagnetic spectrum, and we now have the technology to pick up these signals and literally hear the voices of the stars, the very voices David claimed through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit gave praise and glory to God their Creator 1,000 years before Christ was born!

Graeme Edge concluded his poem by revealing more truths from God's word, saying,

*Two notes of the chord, that's our fluoroscope.  
But to reach the chord is our life's hope.  
And to name the chord is important to some,  
So they give it a word, and the word is OM.*

Yes, indeed, our life's hope is to return to our Lord, no longer ashamed to approach Him in all His purity, all His goodness, all His beauty, and all His light. But only those who are clothed in His holy garments need feel no shame and have no fear in the Presence of God. Yes, our Lord has revealed Himself, and **He is the Word**, and that Word is the great "**I AM THAT I AM**"! John tells us, "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God**" (John 1:1 [RSV]). His name is Yeshua (Jesus), and He, the very Creator of the universe which declares His existence and glory, longs to be your personal Savior. **28. "Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29. Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light."** (Matthew 11:28-30 [RSV]). Give yourself to Him today!