

Weekly Meditation, June 10, 2009

By Rev. Teri Lubbers

Keeping Searching

Yeshua says: If you are searching you must not stop until you find. When you find, however you will become troubled. Your confusion will give way to wonder. In wonder you will reign over all things. Your sovereignty will be your rest.

Gospel of Thomas, Logion 2

We tend to be *to-do list* people. We plan the work and work the plan. We like agendas and being able to check off the items we have completed. It is both satisfying and gratifying to see what we accomplish.

The realm of Spirit doesn't yield to that method. We find that Spirit has its own purposes and intentions for and with us. I love the Yeshua (Jesus) quote above. We are to be always searching, spiritually speaking. We are meant to be seekers always. But instead of being able to check "I found it" off our list, the searching is continuous and actually leads us into unfamiliar terrain that can be troubling, disconcerting, maybe even scary. Because the way we thought it would or should be turns out to be peripheral and secondary to what God wants to do in and with us. This can be disorienting.

But that confusion ultimately gives way to wonder, to awe, as our willingness to surrender grows. We don't acquire Spirit...it acquires us. Only then do the clinging attachments and nagging conditioning of our lives begin to fall away and we become free to taste and experience those fruits of the Spirit that the Apostle Paul speaks of:

God brings gifts into our lives much the same way the fruit appears in the orchard – things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. (Galatians 5:22-23, The Message)

Although our small discernment groups at Agape are done for now, our seeking for the guidance of Spirit is not. Thank you to all who participated. I hope to see everyone at Sunday's Open Forum. Today is just the beginning....

Prayer: Holy Spirit, give me courage today to follow you, even when you take me out of my comfort zone, out of familiar territory. Clear the places of confusion in my life and awaken me to the wonder of your presence all around me. Amen.