

**Weekly Meditation April 14, 2010**  
By Rev. Teri Lubbers

**What We Long For**

***It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for, and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing. I have faith in longing, wherever it finds me. And often it finds me at unpredictable and inconvenient moments. It's like a door that suddenly opens. I am never prepared. There is no preparation for the way it takes me and leaves me, for the fierceness of the ache. It is the voice of the parts of myself I have left behind in the deals I have tried to make with life, trying to trade pieces of my dreams for promises of safety. ~ Oriah, The Invitation***

Don't know about you, but this quote touches me to the very core of my being. I have made so many "deals" over the course of my life, most of which promised me one of the three S's: safety, stability, security. I have looked the other way, talked myself out of dreams, said to myself, "it's not so bad", and tried many other tactics to avoid answering the persistent call of longing. I have also experienced times when I lived into my own courage and chose what I longed for. Powerful...

We get to decide, you know. We get to choose. We think we don't, but we really do. What I think happens is that we automatically put some choices on the shelf because we are afraid we won't be able to live with the consequences, or because they annihilate the tidy images of ourselves we work so hard to maintain. Sometimes we blame someone else for denying us some choice or other. Sometimes we soothe ourselves with stories of how long-suffering, or self-sacrificing, or altruistic we are. But the truth is that we are choosing - every day, every moment, every breath.

But if we stopped and sifted and sifted through the sands of our lives, once we shook out all the unneeded stuff, there in the bottom of our sifting screen would be these little nuggets that we never saw before; the precious metals of our desires and dreams and shy souls. Oriah encourages us: *"Speak the unspeakable, hear what your heart and soul most long for, without judgment. Surprise yourself. Tell yourself something you do not already know."* What I REALLY want is...

**Prayer: God-Who-Is-Spirit-In-All-Things - the psalmist reminds me to "trust in God ... and God will give you the desires of your heart." I pray your Spirit will help me see what I truly long for. I don't want to trade it for the illusions of safety and security. Give me courage today. Amen.**