

The Spirit of God Who Colors in Our Life

4/25/21

Good morning - I'm Ivy! So good to be with you on this rainy, SPRING morning...

I'd love to outline a spiritual practice this morning that invites you to expand your awareness of the Spirit of God within you and around you.

We often describe the Spirit of God in words...A priest I'm familiar with has a litany of names for the Spirit of God including, Indwelling Presence, Homing Device, Implanted Hope, Wind of Change, Great Compassion, Cloud of Unknowing..etc..and I'm sure you too - have particular names for the Spirit of God.

And we often describe the manifestation of the spirit with a list of descriptors as well - we'll read together in just a few minutes with Lydia the beautiful scripture from Galatians 5 that says the fruit of the spirits is: "love, joy, peace, long-suffering/patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Names for the Spirit of God and a list of the fruits of the Spirit of God - are helpful to give an OUTLINE to who we are encountering and what we might express as a result of being in union with the Spirit of God.

But to walk with the Spirit - to be in step with the Spirit as this scripture guides us to do requires the outline to be colored in - to be given texture... as we live our lives.

I saw my mom yesterday - for the first time in a year, and I hugged her, and I realized how much I've missed her - even more than I could name - or communicate by a list of examples...

- And in our time together - the Spirit within me, activated a part of my innermost center, a part of my heart that I had not touched in over a year... and suddenly the Spirit of God came in and revived that spot with flashes of color and texture.
- The Spirit of God is generative and new - and I knew that I was rediscovering, and newly exploring the Spirit of God...
- **The one who is always coloring IN The lines of our life - giving our life shape and contour...**

I could recognize the Spirit of God by the LOVE, JOY, and GENEROSITY in this spirit filled time with my mom..

AND I also could recognize the Spirit of God beyond words.... In COLORS!.. This ombre of light green to dark green that spread as we saw each other - and IN TEXTURES of softness that were feathery and puffy.... and thick.

So today there may be ways in which parts of your heart - your soul - haven't been touched in a long time. ...maybe for protection, for good reason, maybe just pandemic... life .. numbness creeping in....

PRACTICE

I want to give you a moment now to engage with the Spirit of God.

(comfortable position - close your eyes)...

1. Scan your day yesterday...

And instead of our usual prompt that is often, where did you encounter God - I'm going to ask you,

2. What textures and colors were you aware of in your day? Ask God to illuminate textures and colors as you look at the landscape of our day yesterday.

(doesn't have to be bright colors - or smooth textures.... Right? Long-suffering might be barbed, sharp or muted in color...)

3. Maybe this quirky way of being aware of the Spirit of God in your day - activates something that's been dormant in you for a while... maybe it's stirring something new - be open to the Spirit in this..

CHAT IN a TEXTURE OR COLOR for the Spirit of God in your day.

Thank you God, for your Spirit that colors in our lives.

Thank you God, for your Spirit that colors in our lives.

My

- Texture:
 - Shimmering sun on water.
 - Sticky and gritty - fruit bowl on a long drive
 - Warm and soft - hug from my mom.
- Colors were blue

PRAYER

Thank you God of reds and blues and oranges and yellows and every combination in between...Thank you God who offers us landscapes within ourselves and beyond ourselves that are sometimes jagged and smooth and crispy and

Thank you for constantly coloring in the lines of our days - ourselves - and those around us with beauty and truth in love... in ways that are so expansive and constantly evolving.

Dear God - "take root in me today - activate my heart - and color my soul."

Extra Notes:

dignity, lament, and rest

Bell hooks tells the story of her grandmother, Baba, who taught her that human beings are “shaped by space.” Baba’s house was filled with things of varied texture and color: sunlit lace curtains, strings of red peppers, braids of brown tobacco leaves, cups of burgundy wine. “Do you believe that space can give life, or take it away, that space has power?” Baba asked her granddaughter. She showed hooks “the beauty of the everyday,” taught her that “we must learn to see.”