

Connecting New

July, 2025

We often fear the unknown. Will people like me at my new school? Will I do well at my new job? Will I have enough money to retire? Will I be ready for my death? Yet God too is not fully knowable in this life, and we can be ambivalent. We want to know God's desires for us, yet we also don't want to know God's desires because we are afraid we may not want to say yes to what God wants. We want union with God, yet we are resistant to so fully unite with God that we may lose all sense of our individual selves. We want to go to heaven, just not yet.

And so we pray for openness as a mitigation of our ambivalence, and sometimes we may even feel grateful for the invitation that not knowing provides.

Open

I pray with open hands.
Take what you wish.
Give what you wish.
My wish is your wish.

The point is not for something special to happen.
Thanks to you, even the most ordinary is special.
No, the point is simply to be with you,
hoping to know you a little more.
Be with me, I beg you,
even in the silent darkness,
when all you reveal is so boundless and other
that it appears to be nothing.



The Second Greatest Gift

Next to my existence,
perhaps your greatest gift to me is my not knowing.
Not knowing when or how I will experience you.
Not knowing your plans, hopes and yearnings for me.
Not knowing what the future holds
or how the messy issues in my life will get resolved.
Not knowing when I will die.
Not knowing about how life will unfold for my children.
Not knowing how I will be drawn into suffering,
and not even knowing about what will happen the next moment.

Yes, this must be the second greatest gift
because it draws me toward and into you.
It allows me to be surprised and to grow.
It creates the opportunity to trust, and to hope,
and to fall in love more deeply.
It helps me come to appreciate my dependence upon you,
and if I am really honest,
your dependence upon me.

Oh God, I marvel at your works,
your cleverness,
and boundless, creative love.
You make me wonder about how heaven will not be boring.
How will you allow us to experience the fullness of your beautiful presence,
yet still continue to surprise us?

May we all come to know God, each other and our true selves more fully, and
may we be ever grateful for that invitation.

Peace and Blessings,
Clarence

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