**One**

 **Soul’s**

 **Journey**

**One Woman’s quest for God**

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 Dedicated to all those searching for peace and absolution.



***Are You There?***

Are you there, God?

Do You hear my prayer?

Do You really care

about me?

I get to feeling so low, God,

I don’t know where to go, God,

or where to turn, God,

but to You.

I long for your comfort,

the peace that You bring

which can make my heart sing

songs of joy.

I long to be free

from the things of this earth,

to be innocent, gentle and kind.

Oh, God, do You mind that

I ramble like this?

Do you care? Are you there?

Are you mine?

Foreword

This need I have had for God, this thirst I felt, has been with me as long as I can remember. Even as a small girl I felt this need and searched for God in many ways. I read of others experiences, I was inspired by “religious” movies, I sought Him in church, in fact many churches, yet I could not find this God of love for whom my soul yearned.

As I grew older the need grew greater. Where was the God for whom I searched? I sought Him in the Bible courses, spiritual retreats, small groups, but found Him not. Finally, I became so angry I hated God. Because he refused to show Himself to me I denied His existence.

Years went by. Many friends tried to show me the way, but I refused to listen anymore. If God did not want me, I surely did not want Him! I ridiculed the hypocrites who went to church every Sunday. I defied Him in every way I could, but yet I was not happy. As a matter of fact, I was miserable. One year, after surgery, serious complications developed and I lay close to death. In lieu of flowers a friend of mine came by to see me and left some stationary, stamps, and of all things, a copy of Guideposts! One day I picked up the copy of the small magazine and started to read. In the recesses of my being I felt a feeling I had never known. This was the beginning of the end of my quest, but recovery was slow and spiritual growth slower.

Once again I began my search for God, but my life still had a void and try as I might I could not fill it. My frustration grew until once again my life was a mess. Finally one night in desperation I prayed:

“All right, I quit! My life is in shambles. Take my life and do what you will with it because I am just making a mess of everything.” I meant every word. My life and priorities changed.

My husband and I joined a church and I became involved in church life. It was not easy, for my husband was by no means “religious”. He distrusted the church and had little use for it, but he attended for my sake.

There were two services, one folk-type, the other, traditional. I especially liked the folk service. The atmosphere, the feeling of oneness, the warmth and friendliness of the people was wonderful. I knew I wanted to belong, to be a part of this family. I signed up for the classes necessary for membership and this, too, proved to be quite an experience. Ground rules allowed us to believe whatever we wished and to express our beliefs without recrimination, but we had to allow others the same privilege. I found these sessions to be exciting and eagerly looked forward to the next meeting. During this time I experienced spiritual growth.

One Saturday the church held a retreat just for women. Eagerly I signed up. I was ready to grow! How disappointed I was to learn that the minister had brought only some books for us to read and then planned some group conversation. I selected a book, found a spot under a tree and began to read. The book I had selected, **God Calling,** was written anonymously by two women in England during World War II and was God’s message to them in their need.

Then a thought occurred to me. If the Lord spoke to these two women, would he speak to me, a lone woman in search of Him? I decided to keep a journal and after saying my prayers I waited for His response. In the weeks and months that followed I knew I had found my God. The void in my life was filled and in my heart I felt His joy, His presence.

What is included here was written during the mid-seventies, a time when my soul was in deep distress. The responses I received are here for you. Today my life has meaning and no longer do I search for who I am or where I am going. I am finally at peace with myself and my God. I wish you the same.

Laurel Hall

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***Little girl***

Lord, this little girl inside of me

is longing to be free.

I hear her crying, pleading,

oh, so desperately.

She has suffered so much pain,

her anguish I can feel.

The fear, the hate, the suffering,

too real, Lord, much too real.

The tears fell hot upon her face,

they wet my own today.

Though years pass, time can’t erase

those memories away.

The child is crying out, Lord,

for one who understands,

for one to love and hold her -

to take her little hand.

Lord, take this little girl

so lonely and forlorn.

Surround her with Your love,

like a blanket, keep her warm.

Until she stops her crying, Lord,

and knows Your love is real.

Make her feel secure and safe,

at peace, at last, and healed.

God, I have searched for you all my life. I have longed to know you, to know your love, the peace that you give. Please, please help me.”

*Each person must realize he is a spiritual being. It is so easy to be tempted. You must tell others of the love and peace you have found within. The things of this earth drive man from me, yet they do not satisfy him. Let not your heart want wealth or fame, only me. Let nothing come between us. Through you others shall know of my love, but first you must grow in love and knowledge of me. Enough for now. Have faith in me. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, how do I know who to trust?

*Trust is not an easy thing to learn. You must not rush. All people everywhere have been hurt by lack of love. You are not an exception. Abide with me and have faith. Celebrate your lives together and the joy of knowing each other. You must realize how what you say affects people. You are all learning to feel free in expressing yourselves, sharing fears, joys, laughter, hurts. Learn well this lesson, that you may help others. Trust in me. Remember, I give you strength for each day. Like the lilies of the field, be beautiful, be what you are, all human. Grow in love and joy. Do not miss this opportunity. Persevere and enjoy life in my freedom. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I feel so unlovable. Please teach me to love.”

*Within you is the power to love, to understand, to be kind, generous, thoughtful. The Kingdom of God is Love, Peace, and Joy. It is found in the thrill of springtime, the beauty of the first snowfall. All*

*life is eternal. Everyone has eternal life. Those that know me, that put me at the center of their life, will know the joy of heaven today, here on earth. And as they grow their joy will increase and they shall know the peace that “none can describe”.*

*I am not a religion, but a way of life. By example you can teach others and they shall know that I am real because of you. Let my spirit work within you. Be my agent. Give of yourself to others for the Glory of God. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

God, please help me to know what to say when confronted by others. Help me to know you.

*Become more aware of how you affect others rather than how others affect you. As a human being it is hard to understand what is meant by “God is Love”. It is impossible to explain God in earthly terms because human knowledge is finite, earth-based, dimension bound. Let it be sufficient to say that by letting God rule one’s life will fill one with feelings of love, peace, and joy. God can remove all hostilities, heal all old wounds, and mend broken lives. As nourishment is needed for the body each day, daily contact with the Father is needed for spiritual growth. Sit quietly and surrender yourself to the will of God, and know the peace only He can bring to you. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I feel so insecure. Please help me.

*Your life is empty and insecure when you depend on yourself for everything. It is like a man trying to build a house all alone, with no help, rejecting all offers. I want to help you, to lighten your burdens, but I am so often rejected. Do you find it so hard to give up? I am strong. Trust me. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I am so confused. I don’t know what do to.

*The freeing of the spirit is important. People tie their spirit in knots and then wonder why they are in pain. My ways are so gentle and man’s are so rough. I took the first step. Now each individual must take the next. As you cannot force someone to love you, neither can I force man to love me. Man has free will. It is such a small step and so much is waiting in store for those who come. Man must not limit me, nor want me to do things his way. He must trust me implicitly. As an infant cannot run at birth though he has legs, neither can the person taking the first step expect to know me completely. Spiritual growth is as important for the development of*

*he soul as physical growth is for the development of the body. If you would only trust me as the infant must trust his mother. I, too, shall feed you, nurture and love you, but, only if you let me. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I feel so lost. I have no friends. Please help me.

*So many people put self in the foreground. Rather than worry about what others think of you, look at the other person. Let them share their life with you. Find something to brighten their day and your day will be brighter for it. Care not what happens to you. I will take care of you. You are my sheep and I am the Shepherd. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God,why are we here? What is the purpose of our life?

*The purpose of your life on earth is to develop your spiritual self. As life in the womb was to develop your physical body for life on earth, so life in the body is to develop your spirit for eternal life. Your body is merely a house for your spirit, as the womb was a home for your body. Cling not to the body, but to the spirit, for it alone is eternal. . Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I am feeling so low. Please be with me today*.*

*When you are feeling down come to me and I will lift you up. I will put joy into your heart and you shall feel my presence. I shall hold you close to me and comfort you as a mother comforts her baby. Come to me all ye who are heavy laden and I will give you rest. So often, dear one, your problems are of your own making. What do you want? What do you expect? Miracles? Look back over your life. No one has had a perfect childhood. Everyone has suffered from the sins of his parents through the ages. Accept that. Bring joy to those around you. Help lighten their load. Share your strength with them and you will grow stronger. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I feel so unworthy. When I look at my peers, I feel so inadequate.

*No one is unworthy of another human being. You are all equal in my eyes. Do not stand in awe of another. Develop your own talents and you shall find your worth. Do not try to copy another’s strengths and talents. Each of you has your own. Help others to develop their own unique talent and enjoy the wonder and beauty of each other’s gifts. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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God, I feel so inadequate. Help me to learn, to grow, to understand others.

*You have so much and yet you are so critical. You need to be kinder yourself, that you may be kinder to others. When you reject the love others offer you, you reject me. Accept all gifts of love. I work through many people to help you. Accept their gifts and you accept Me. Look for Me in the eyes of others. Accept Me as I come to you. Thank you Lord Jesus.*

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