# In My Heart

01/24/16

Romans 8:15-16

*15 The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.*

Those of us were using computers throughout the 80’s and 90’s and have gone on-line are familiar with that squealing screech as the modem sought its peaceful resolution in connecting to its partner in communication. I can’t help but feel like those old modems sometimes. Here’s what I mean.

At times in my life I have simply wanted to cry out for God’s help, sounding my squealing screech. My soul has been squealing and crying my life long. Although God has always answered my call, I have not always known it was God on the other end of the line. But I can now look back on challenging times and note the peaceful resolution, and see that it was always God who was making my way clear at the turning points of my life.

On example I can relay is my work in the dental industry. As many of you know, I sell dental supplies. It was in the late 1980’s when I first applied for a job as a telemarketing representative in the dental sales field. I had the typical interview, then didn’t hear anything for a while. I went out job searching once again, this time for the State of Nevada. The Legislature was soon to be in session, and I was applying as a bill writer. These are the people who take the thoughts from the legislatures and convert them into bills to be put before the house.

I went through the interview process, which included a writing audition, and then waited. A week or two later I got two calls for employment: one from the State saying that I was hired, and one from the dental company saying I was hired.

The State job was prestigious: a bill writer – wow! It paid well, but was temporary. Once the Legislature was over, so was my position, until the next session. On the other hand, there was this sales position. It didn’t pay well, but it was permanent fulltime work. ‘Sales’ has its own dangers, as you may know. So what to do?

I remember feeling torn and uncertain – my soul’s modem was squealing, seeking a connection, looking for an answer. Gradually, I realized that what I needed at the time was some security. I had not had a job for a while, because I had been in school, so I opted for the fulltime position. Certainly the last 25 years have been up and down professionally and financially, but I am still selling, struggling, managing, and very happy with where I am. Through the avenue of being a minister, I have broadened the way I serve humankind. I am now at peace, although not where I ever thought I would be.

God led me to this point in my life; I am confident in saying that. I know I could have been a good bill writer, too. I love to write; I even wrote a book a few years back, and in a sense I use my writing skills as I prepare my talks for Sunday.

As I look back on it, Spirit led me into sales because I needed to develop some people skills and business skills. These are not my strengths, so I needed practice. My training in music and performing, along with some teaching experience, sales experience, and the love of words has forged a particular skill set that works very well as a minister.

The connection with God for this particular path began many years ago, and although I have meandered around, God has always been in my heart, and thankfully, I have always been in God’s heart.

I made a connection with God at a critical time in my life. We are all making connections, at every moment of our lives. In the grocery store a couple of weeks ago I saw an older couple walking hand in hand. I really identified with that connection. When Mary takes my hand, it has a remarkable impact on my heart. It is a true heart connection for me. We frequently make these heart connections with our spouses and other loved ones.

As our awareness of God grows and our consciousness expands, so does our ability to connect with more diverse people and creatures. It is sometimes easier to connect with animals than people, because animals are so uncomplicated.

Animals are not plugged into the Jungian Collective Unconscious or Durkheim’s Collective Consciousness. When we derive our decisions from this mass collection of thought, our thoughts are fogged. We respond favorably to prejudices and superstitions, because that’s what the common man believes. Those thoughts are “out there”, and if we aren’t careful we draw them to us. When we are connected to the mind of humankind, we are disconnected from the mind of God. Because of this disconnect, we cannot believe in, or see, the divinity inherent in the individual. We separate ourselves from others and can experience intense loneliness, even in crowds of people. Without our heart connection to Spirit, we seek superficial head- connections through skin color, language, hair color and other physical characteristics; religious beliefs, political affiliations, even rooting for a certain sports team can become a strong connection. These are what I call head-connections; connection of the ego, connections from the collective common thinking of our earthly perspective. We know we need connection, but we are lost as to where to plug in.

It’s like missing the point of life. For instance, we had a car that leaked a lot of oil. Two weeks after noticing this, I started feeling this gnawing in my gut that I should fill my car up with oil. I ignored it, and ignored it, until finally I bought a case of oil. I felt better – only for a day or two, because I purchased the oil, and put it in the trunk of my car. I didn’t fill up my car; I just carried the oil around with me. The gnawing returned. At last, I filled my car with the much-needed oil and all was well; a happy ending to the story.

And you know, driving around with the oil in your trunk is not a bad thing... it’s just not a very bright thing. It’s not a productive thing. It is not addressing the real issue.

I have the feeling there’s a lot of us living out our lives with the oil in the trunk of our car. In our heads we know about making a connection with God, but we don’t take the time to make sure we are dialing the right number. Our modems are howling, we are seeking a solution, or a connection, but we forgot to plug in.

I have done this more than I care to admit: I talk about God, I recognize all the wonderful things in my life, I experience the joy and peace of God, but I don’t stop to meditate for days at a time. I pray frequently, thanking God for the abundance and gifts I’ve been given, but I don’t sit still long enough to make a solid Divine Connection.

To prepare for this talk, I used a Bible Concordance to find the word *connection* in the Bible, but I couldn’t find one. Yet God tells us how to make the connection: “Be still, and know that I am God.” I am so guilty of not being still. I have found myself saying “I am busy.” I am stuck in my head – trying to make sense of my behaviors; coming up with excuses for not doing what I should be doing.

When we find ourselves saying, “I know, I know, I know. But…”, then we are caught in our heads, not our hearts. God calls us to connect, and we do that through our hearts and minds, through our inner desire and feelings as well as ideas and thoughts.

Philippians 4:6-7 teaches this: *6Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus*.

Why does God want us to speak our hearts’ desires and bring up all the things that are troubling us if God already knows? Apparently, God wants us to connect. Our inner Christ implores us to develop a relationship with God as Abba, as our Father, as our loving Divine Parent. We are being led to hold God in our hearts as we are held in God’s heart, and as we hold our own children in our hearts. We do this through our commitment of time in prayer and meditation.

Our God connection is foundational for all the other wonderful heart connections we make. Where is the benefit to our soul in making a heart connection to animals, if we loathe people? When we are connected to God, we start to see the Divinity in all of God’s creatures, including people. Does God intend for us to be good and loving fathers, mothers, husbands and wives, friends and companions, but treat new acquaintances with disdain because they are strangers and outsiders? It goes against everything that Jesus came here to teach us.

We are taught to develop loving connections with all people. Love is the connecting force in this Universe. Love is the howl of our soul’s modem, and Love is the answer. Love is what allows us to see the Divinity in others; it allows us to look past the differences and see the similarities in each other. When we feel connected with someone or something – that is love. And it is love that gnaws at our soul, seeking expression and connection.

It is my prayer that we take the love out of trunks of our cars and start it circulating through our lives where it will do some good. Let’s get it out of our heads and into our hearts. Let us dare to make that powerful connection with God and all of Creation.

Let us pray….