



Study Circle - Loving God Series

God, Man, and Love

Objective

To understand what God means to us and how to relate to and love God.

The word “God” may mean different things for different persons. The concept of what God means generally is shaped by the religion one follows and the society and culture in which one lives. Can a human really understand fully what God is? Spiritual texts and teachers suggest that it is not possible to understand God with human senses. Swami says “God cannot be described; He has to be experienced.” (Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. XI, pages 30 and 174).

Quote

God is infinite. It is impossible to measure God or compare God with anything, for there is no ‘other’ to compare. God is omnipresent. The Vedas declare “God is One alone without a second” The Divine willed “I am One; I shall become many”. By own will, God manifested in the many. All religions have accepted this truth. The Bible declares: “God created man in ‘His’ own image.” Thus from the One, the manifold cosmos emerged. With growth of knowledge, the animal nature in humans has diminished and they are able to develop and refine their culture. As the saying goes, Divine appears in human form. Hence, do not consider yourself as a mere product of Nature, a creature of the senses and the physical elements. You are an embodiment of Divinity. (Source: Divine Discourse of Sri Sathya Sai Baba, 15 September 1988)

Suggested Questions

Swami addresses the attendees of His discourses as “Embodiments of Divine Atma,” to remind us about the Divinity of man, as stated in the above quotes. If man is Divine, why do we not individually feel that way?

1. Considering that we are Divine at our core, how should we love ourselves as we love God? Give an example of how that love should manifest in our daily lives.

Quote

Brahman, the Supreme Absolute Consciousness is formless, neither man nor woman, male or female. But when the Consciousness splits, it takes on two aspects – Knowledge and Energy, Shiva and Shakti. (Source: Sathya Sai Amritha Vahini, page 32)

An individual is unaware of one’s own glory. The individual is the Divine poured into a human mold, just as everything else alive or inert is, but it is the privilege of the human alone to be able to become aware of this precious truth. (Source: Sathya Sai Speaks, Vol. VII, page 111)



Suggested Questions

1. Swami has said in the above quotes that in addition to humans everything alive or inert in creation is also Divine. Can you think of one or two examples of the evidence of Divinity in non-human lives and in inert matter?
2. Knowing that the Divine is present in all of creation, how should one interact with their environment? What are some specific practices that reflect this understanding?

Life Application

Make an effort to be conscious of the divinity present in your environment and translate that into a specific practice. Relate your experience at the next study circle session.

Affirmation

“I am God; I am not different from God.
I am the indivisible Supreme Absolute.
I am Sath-Chith-Ananda (Being, Awareness, Bliss)
Grief and anxiety can never affect me.
I am ever content; fear can never enter me.”

(Source: Sri Sathya Sai’s instruction in “My Baba and I” by John Hislop)