

What Personal Life?

Michael Beckwith article from *Handbook for the Spirit*

January 20, 2024

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Beckwith is the founder of Agape Church, a mega congregation in the Los Angeles area. His is an Interfaith church that espouses a New Thought philosophy. For more on New Thought, see Beckwith's website www.agapelive.com and go to their Principles and Practices here: <https://agapelive.com/pages/agape-spiritual-principles-and-practices>

Things to think about:

- This article uses the word God freely. Beckwith defines God as Spirit, an ineffable Presence that is everywhere and in everything. If you have trouble with the word God, translate it to something that is larger than yourself, but don't get hung up on the word. Challenge yourself to understand the key points he is making without getting stuck on the language.
- Beckwith makes his key point in the first few paragraphs of this article. Can you restate his point in your own words?
- His contention is that if you "surrender" and give the "God" part of you primacy, your life will be 1) easier and 2) guided. What do you think of this?
- Do you have any sense that you were born with a purpose? What do you think your purpose is?
- Beckwith says that it's our ego that believes we are separate from God. The ego wants to control and this leads to pain. Thoughts?
- How does Beckwith suggest we put God in charge of our lives? What is required of us to do that?
- Much of Beckwith's platform is intuitive, ie, it can't be proven – there is not much to back it up. But just because it is not rational does not mean it is irrational. It may just be a different way of knowing. Most of us have experience with something that may not make rational sense but it feels right to us anyway. Are you a person who trusts his/her intuition? How far would you trust it?
- Beckwith is really not much interested in belief systems. His passion is to awaken people to their "real selves." Do you feel that you have a "real self" that is not necessarily the self that you show the world? Is there something realer than your roles?
- What's the most important thing in your life?