

When looking for way forward or answers to those besetting questions
When looking for hope or the missing links in our lives
—we tend to look outside ourselves
If we have a church background—we were probably trained to look in certain places
The Bible
Books, respected friends and mentors, the pastor
Worship—even to the extent that these experiences replace God for me
It is easy to become dependent on the “other” to encounter God
We ask spiritual questions... What am I supposed to do? What does God want?
—but we still look outside ourselves
It is a little like looking for your glasses, when someone says they are on your face
We don’t realize or see the value in what we already have
The best place to look for those answers is within

Thomas Kelley says, *“Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, to the Light Within, is the beginning of true life. It is a dynamic center, a creative Life that presses to birth within us. It is a Light Within which illumines the face of God and casts new shadows and new glories upon the face of [people]. It is a seed stirring to life if we do not choke it. It is the Shekinah of the soul, the Presence in the midst. Here is the Slumbering Christ, stirring to be awakened, to become the soul we clothe in earthly form and action. And He is within us all.”*¹

...And God is within us all! The answers aren’t out there... they are within—look to the Light Within
Even the looking is part of the Presence within—the desire to know God comes from God
Our mistake is in assuming that the answer lies out there somewhere leading us away from it
The only things really useful to me were my story, my writings, my waiting, my Leadings...
Don’t worry about what you don’t know... simply lean into what you do know, what comes

1 Kings 19:11-18 tells the story of Elijah looking for God
There was a great wind... but God was not in the wind
There was an earthquake... but God was not in the earthquake
There was a fire... but God was not in the fire
“...after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it...” he was in the presence of God

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the LORD of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6

“Be still, and know that I am God!” Psalm 46:10
Or in the NASB version... *“Cease striving and know that I am God.”*

But it isn’t just in the alone, still times that we can know the Presence of God
Rather this Presence accompanies us everywhere
Brother Lawrence talked about washing dishes with God—carrying God into our daily lives
I find that when I’m centered and still, Listening to God—there is a real sense that God stays
Rather than leave the quiet... it is as if we go out together—God with me
We are accompanied by the Light within, the Divine Presence, the still, small, voice

¹ Thomas Kelly, *A Testament of Devotion*, Harper and Row, 1941, page 29