

My Spiritual Awakening Needs To Be Ongoing

12th Step - Lesson 4

Death and loss have always made me think a lot more about life, and now is no exception. I realize that I am no longer angry with God for allowing Riley to be taken away, but I also don't really trust God to be God in the way that I have in the past. Previously, I trusted that God would always be fair and just, and that he would answer my prayers in a way that made sense to me. Now I see God as a really good friend of mine who I can argue with and philosophize with, but not as a being that will necessarily make sense to me all the time. I have stopped asking God to heal people or to take away their particular situations, and instead I ask that he sit with people and talk to them in the way that they appreciate and understand, helping them to realize that their pain or disease may always be with them on this earth, but that they can look forward to a much better destiny in their true homes. I have stopped asking God "why?" and now just talk to him about my pain and loss. I sometimes just scream to him in my head about how much agony I am in, and I don't ask him to take it away anymore. I just want him to listen, and I know that he will. I have actually become much closer to Jesus through all of this, but it's very different than how I had seen him before.

– A young mother whose baby died in the delivery room

God doesn't make sense to us all the time and sometimes never, depending on the situation. That's reality. Instead of facing that reality, we often try to put the Lord in our box, and when He decides the box is too small and leaves it, we are in despair.

"Why didn't He answer my prayers?" "I have played by the rules; I've done everything right. I trusted God to fix my problems." We don't give our Lord the option to say, "No. I have a different plan." We don't give Him an opportunity to have an opinion. I don't even know why we "ask"; with that kind of thinking, it would be more honest to "demand" - implying that He doesn't

have a choice - we want what we want and we want it NOW. (When I say "we", this may not apply to you so please don't get offended!!! I put myself in the "we" because I no longer constantly struggle with the Lord for control for my life, but it's not to say I won't relapse!)

I really DON'T know what He's up to most of the time! I am a freer individual now that I've realize that. – The grandmother of that baby

2 Peter 3:18—Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen.

Luke 2:52—Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

He who is not busy being born is busy dying. – Bob Dylan, "It's Alright, Ma (I'm Only Bleeding)"

- How has God been leading you to change and mature in your faith?
- Have you resisted the changes God has been trying to make? Why?
- What could you tell someone who is afraid to change and grow?