

AN ENCOURAGING WORD FOR TROUBLING TIMES #149 (by Rev. Dr. Alice Wolfe, 1/26/21)

“Where’s Bernie?”

Since last week, Facebook has been flooded with pictures (memes) of Senator Bernie Sanders sitting with his arms and legs crossed and wearing brown and white mittens as he watched the Presidential inauguration. Bernie (as a meme) has appeared in various historical pictures like DaVinci’s painting of the *Last Supper* and *Washington Crossing the Delaware*. His meme has also appeared in pictures from TV shows and movies like *Star Wars*, *Golden Girls*, *Ghost*, *Sesame Street*, *The Dating Game*, and *Forest Gump*. Bernie’s meme has appeared on roller coasters, floating in the air with a bunch of balloons, with superheroes and royalty, and as a “cheese head” fan of the Green Bay Packers. Some are quite humorous!

Some of the memes ask people to find Bernie in the midst of the picture. These remind of the children’s puzzle books “Where’s Waldo?” in which children tried to find the cartoon drawing of Waldo in the midst of a large, busy cartoon drawing with many other things. Kids of all ages have enjoyed spending time trying to find Waldo... and now Bernie.

I wonder, however, what would happen if we (and our world) chose to look for God... After all, God is everywhere...

“WHERE SHALL I GO FROM YOUR SPIRIT? OR WHERE SHALL I FLEE FROM YOUR PRESENCE? IF I ASCEND TO HEAVEN, YOU ARE THERE! IF I MAKE MY BED IN SHEOL, YOU ARE THERE! IF I TAKE THE WINGS OF THE MORNING AND DWELL IN THE UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE SEA, EVEN THERE YOUR HAND SHALL LEAD ME, AND YOUR RIGHT HAND SHALL HOLD ME.” (PSALM 139:7-10)

“CAN A MAN HIDE HIMSELF IN SECRET PLACES SO THAT I CANNOT SEE HIM? DECLARES THE LORD. DO I NOT FILL HEAVEN AND EARTH? DECLARES THE LORD?” (JEREMIAH 23:24)

Although God is everywhere and always with us, we don’t always realize it; we don’t see him; we miss him... When Jesus walked the face of the earth, most people missed him; they didn’t realize God was in their midst. Though Jesus is not physically with us now, his spirit, the Holy Spirit, is always with us—at all times and in all places. Unfortunately, we like all generations get too wrapped up in our lives or things of this world, and we don’t see him... and many times, it’s simply because we aren’t looking for him.

So, I have a challenge for us! While we may enjoy looking for Bernie or Waldo, let’s enjoy looking for God throughout each day. Do you see God in the beautiful sunrise or sunset he painted? Do you hear God in the laughter or tears of your friends or family? Do you see God as you witness someone serving or helping others? Do you see God in your family, friends, classmates, co-workers,... or enemies? Do you see God as you pray, worship, and study your Bible? Do you see God with you at home, school, work, and throughout your day? The more I see God throughout my day; the more I draw closer to God and experience his peace, joy, comfort, hope, heart, love, and guidance. Remember: God is everywhere; he’s always with us—we just have to keep looking for him!

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” (Jeremiah29:13)

PRAYER:

Loving, ever-present God, thank you that you are always with us! Open our eyes that we may see you, our hearts that we may know and worship you, our hands that we may serve you, and our feet that we may follow you—and share your love with all! Amen.

LIVE IT!

Look for God throughout each day. Feel free to comment below where you have seen God!



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