

Is Your Life Complete?

"If there's nothing missing in my life, then why do these tears come at night?"

Britney Spears, Pop Singer.

Perhaps you, also, have a vague feeling that something is missing in your life. Why are millions of people finding that no sensual pleasure, no earthly security, no amount of prestige can satisfy the emptiness and wistful yearning of the innermost self?

One moment, you want to find God and know Him in real and personal terms; but the next, you anxiously abandon the idea because you don't want God interfering in your life. Perhaps you cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.

A growing mountain of evidence reveals another component to life – the spiritual dimension. *There is no lack of spiritual themes in North American popular culture today.* People are tired of the materialistic rat race! With so much uncertainty over the future, people of all ages turn to everything, from horoscopes to angels and extra-sensory powers (esp) for guidance and satisfaction. We need discernment in the midst of deception in order to distinguish between the superficial and the authentic.

Genuine spirituality involves being in a right relationship with God, with oneself, with others and creation. Author Eugene Peterson notes two essentials for human fulfillment: "The desire for *intimacy*, the experience of human love; and the desire for *transcendence*, to experience Divine love."

According to the Angus Reid Poll, (the most comprehensive survey of religion ever made in Canada) 27% of Canadians strongly profess faith, while 28% indicate little or no interest in religion. However, 45% of Canadians--almost half the population—seldom attend church yet claim an openness to spiritual influences and values. More recent research affirms these same conclusions.

Renowned Professor Northrop Frye of the University of Toronto reflected the same thinking when he wrote, "What is it then, that the more restless and impatient students of our time are trying to break through their University training to get? I have suggested... their quest is a religious one, they are looking for answers to spiritual questions that the University cannot answer."

The very fact that spiritual issues are being raised confirms that our hearts are finding no satisfying answer in what our world has to offer. If indeed there is no God and the universe is merely a collection of causeless events, then where does this inner longing originate? The Bible makes no effort to prove the existence of God. You and I are sufficient proof with our longing for the Infinite. That eternal restlessness within can only find peace through union and communion with *God, our Creator.*

That fact cannot be erased. You can deny it but you cannot escape it. Augustine's prayer expresses this thought beautifully: "*O God, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they find rest in Thee.*"

