

Be A Complete Person
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“You don’t know what it is that you want, but it just makes your heart ache, you want it so.” Mark Twain

At the end of the day, when you are all alone, do you sometimes feel unexplainably empty – even sad? Perhaps you have a vague feeling that your life is incomplete, with unmet expectations and unfulfilled dreams. No matter what you achieve in life, you always wonder, is there more than this world has to offer – a spiritual dimension?

I am finding that more and more people are expressing an interest in spirituality. They want something authentic and genuine to meet needs that neither atheism, secular humanism, or communism could fulfill. According to sociologists, as “baby busters” (born between 1965 and 1983), have become spouses and parents, matters of faith and spirituality have become increasingly important to them. The Angus Reid Poll indicates that 45% of Canadians seldom attend church yet claim an openness to spiritual influences and values.

Live in All Four Rooms Author Rumer Godden tells about an old Indian proverb that teaches how every life represents a house with four rooms – physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. Most of us tend to frequent only one or two rooms but, unless we enter every room, every day, even if only to keep it aired, we are not complete. The challenge is to be a complete person and live in all four rooms

Today, terms such as “spiritual dimension,” “the new spirituality” frequent our culture. This quest reveals that a God- shaped void and a spiritual hunger exist in the heart of every human being. Because God has “set eternity in the hearts of men” (Ecc 3:11), we can never be completely satisfied with earthly pleasures or for any substitute for the God of Biblical Revelation.

In society today there is a lot of pop- spirituality which is centered around self, lacks depth and becomes a form of escape-ism. *In contrast, genuine spirituality can lead to a personal relationship with an awesome God who is both loving and holy.* Eugene Peterson makes a helpful distinction: “theology without spirituality is dead, while spirituality without theology is mushy. True spirituality must be about God and not about us.”

In our search for the meaning of life we tend to ask questions centered around self- what are my ambitions, my dreams, my future? However, focusing on ourselves will never reveal our life’s purpose. We are not on this earth by accident!

But God- centered spirituality changes the way we express our deepest thoughts and questions. “Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? Does my life have meaning beyond what this world offers?” We will never find life’s true meaning until God’s purposes for our lives are fulfilled in becoming what he designed us to be. This longing in our hearts will never be satisfied until we find rest in the God who placed it there.

“He has set eternity in the hearts of men” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).