

Tuesday Gathering of Friends, July 25, 2023

So, let's talk about God:

◆ **According to <[ChristianAnswers.net](http://ChristianAnswers.net)>, there are 967 Names and titles of God.**

"The most important and most often written name of God in Judaism is the Tetragrammaton, the four-letter name of God. ...YHWH is the third person imperfect the verb "to be" meaning, therefore, "He is"."

◆ **"Hebrew Word of the Week" [chad.org](http://chad.org), offers this...**

"...In essence, G-d has no name. He is infinite and cannot be given any titles or description. You could say, by definition, He has no definition. But then comes creation. G-d chooses to become involved with His own thought of a physical world, descending, so to speak, within it. And in His relationship to us, the creatures of that world, He now assumes many descriptions... Simply put, each name is a different manner in which we experience G-d's presence."

— Yisroel Cotlar, Rabbi and Executive Director, Chabad of Cary (North Carolina)  
Chabad: Orthodox Jewish Hasidic dynasty

◆ **John O'Donohue writes in Anam Cara - A Book of Celtic Wisdom:**

*Silence is the Sister of the Divine*

"Meister Eckhart said that there is nothing in the world that resembles God so much as silence. Silence is a great friend of the soul; it unveils the riches of solitude. It is very difficult to reach that quality of inner silence. You must make a space for it so that it may begin to work for you. ... If you have a trust in and an expectation of your own solitude, everything that you need to know will be released to you." pp. 111-112,

— Meister Eckhart (1260-1327), German priest & theologian, the greatest of Christian teachers. His views were condemned as heretical by Pope John XXII (1244 - 4 December 1334).

◆ **The following quotes are from The Enlightened Mind: An Anthology of Sacred Prose Edited by Stephen Mitchell:**

"If we find fullness of joy in the thought that God exists, we should find the same fullness in the knowledge that we ourselves do not exist, for it is the same thought. ...

"Absolutely unmixed attention is prayer." p. 204

— Simone Weil (1909-1943), French Jewish philosopher, theologian, sociologist, and political activist.

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"Mind is everything; mind is nothing. Mind creates time and space, mind contains a billion galaxies, mind lifts a spoon of oatmeal to its mouth at breakfast. Mind is life and death, God and devil, you and I; mind stand at the top of the mountain; mind cries for its mother's breast. Mind pulls the universe out of a top hat, bows to its own applause, and walks off the stage grinning." P. 65

"Your true nature is not lost in moments of delusion, nor it is gained at the moment of enlightenment. It was never born and can never die." P 67

— p. 65, Huang-Po (?-849), Chinese Zen Master

◆ **Query: How do these quotes speak to your understanding or experience of God?**

Susan Hefte, facilitator