

Faith Life Weekly 4/20/08 R.F.

Reflection:

Good friends,

How high do you put God? Is God on your turf? Is God about midway between your world and heaven? Or is God high up in the heavens?

I think the way in which we relate to God has a lot to do with how we relate to God in prayer and handle the ins and outs of our lives. If God is always up there, then we don't see God as relating much to our life; God doesn't understand what is going on in our life. On the other hand if God is down here with us, then some of the time we don't give God the honor and the power that is due God.

In Bible Study, at a prayer retreat, in youth studies, in Sunday school, we often talk about the names for God even. There are so many descriptive words for God in the Bible. There are so many names. What works for one person may not work for another. But the way in which we pray to God and name God does suggest something about our beliefs in God, and how we as human beings can or cannot approach God. And some of the time that may even change depending upon what is going on in our lives at the time.

I know for example that there are days when I feel as though God is as close as a dear friend. There are other times though when I feel very removed from God. Some of the time I want to set God apart, as the "Holy of Holies", giving God the honor that is due, as bigger than my world, much bigger than any one descriptive word can contain. There are times when I want to be very personal with God, intimate even, private. But there are other times when I prefer to keep this as a very formal relationship, and address God in dressed up form.

Do some thinking about your vision for God. How close is God? Is God near you now or far away on some distant sunrise? Is God with you in the valleys of life, or only with you on the mountain top experiences of life?

SONG:

Here's a song to aid your reflections this day:

"Above All" by Lenny Leblanc, and Paul Baloche,

Listen to the song at [www.ocp.org/songs/66828](http://www.ocp.org/songs/66828)

Above all powers,  
Above all kings,  
Above all nature,  
And all created things.  
Above all wisdom,  
And all the ways of man,  
You were here  
Before the world began.

Above all kingdoms,  
Above all thrones,  
Above all wonders  
The world has ever known,  
Above all wealth,  
And treasures of the earth,  
There's no way to measure  
What You're worth.

Chorus  
Crucified,

Laid behind the stone,  
You lived to die  
Rejected and alone.  
Like a rose  
Trampled on the ground,  
You took the fall  
And thought of me  
Above all.

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**Word in prayer:**

Here is a psalm to use as prayer today:

"You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. You hem me in behind and before; and you lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain. Where can I go from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." - Psalm 139: 1-10

R.F.