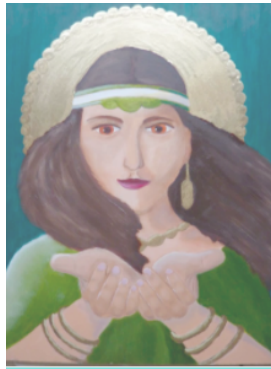


Consenting to God



**Mary of Bethany
knew the one
thing necessary
(cf Lk:10.42)**

“God is sheer love, but it is a love that is not sentimental. It is a love that is trying to share pure unselfish love with these very human instruments who do not know their right hand from their left, yet have the destiny of participating in the divine life. Consent is the proper attitude and primary response to God, not some kind of action or accomplishment.

Consent is the heart of contemplative prayer and of the centering prayer method. Thus, when we sit down for centering prayer, we are actually consenting to God and allowing God to be God freely in us. This is the basic disposition for receiving the transmission of the divine life mediated through Christ’s redeeming activity. It is not limited to Christians because Christ’s redeeming activity has been applied backwards and forwards in time to include every human being that ever existed. It is also available to everyone through a variety of channels outside of religion including nature, creativity, art, service to others, genuine science, conjugal love, and other ways. Religion remains however, the best conveyor of the divine life.

Abraham’s willingness to surrender what he most loved at God’s request enabled him to become the father of the Abrahamic religions: Islam, Judaism, and Christianity. What these religions essentially teach is *an acceptance of God as God is*. We allow him, through daily life and the unfolding of our lives, to bring us to an ever-deeper capacity to surrender who we think we are and to accept who we actually are.”

(“Consenting to God as God Is” by Thomas Keating p72-73)