

Contemplative Outreach

Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating

Part 1 Tape 0(a)



Attitudes Towards God

God as a rather dangerous character.

- *The right attitude toward God is essential to one's progress on the spiritual journey.*

A Good Idea of God.

- *Fear of God equals Trust in God.*

God Out There (Descartes and Newton)

The Western Model

Self-outside-of-God and God-outside-of-self.

The self initiates all good intentions.

God will reward us in heaven.

- *In Christianity motivation is everything*
- *Jesus condemns religious practices motivated only by external show.*
- *The idea that we must earn God's love is contrary to scripture.*

The Scriptural Model

Emphatic endorsement by Vatican II.

- *Our era has the most comprehensive texts and understanding of scripture since the Apostolic era.*
- *Thanks to modern scripture scholars, we have more insight into the original meaning of the sacred authors.*

The self-in-God and God-in-the-self.

Listening and responding to the Spirit.

We are on a journey to God right now and are called to serve others right now.

- *The Western model misleads us into thinking that God must reward us now.*

Union with and love of God is for the present not the future.