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From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

When I was back in my home town in June to bury my mother, I was able to touch base with several of my childhood friends. On once such visit the subject turned to her relationship with God. She said she did not have one, and hasn't had one in years! Now, this didn't surprise me much, many of my friends left the Catholic church as they got older. What surprised me was her die-hard attitude toward not having a relationship with God. After she finished explaining why she no longer had a relationship I had her answer some questions for me: Do you love your children? Do you accept people for who they are, knowing that we all make mistakes? Do you love your grand-children? Do you try to live by the golden rule? As she responded with a "yes" to these questions I asked her to think about this thought for a minute: by living your life based on the commandment to love, then you do have a relationship with God, the kind of relationship that Jesus talked about. "God is spirit and those who worship God must worship in truth and love."

As she sat there thinking about what had just transpired she gave me this strange look. Looking at the expression on her face I couldn't help to ask her, "I bet you never thought I'd be sitting here discussing spiritual concepts with you when we were growing up, did you?" Well, there were times that I thought you'd never see your 12th birthday or you'd make the county jail your home." We had a good laugh over that one.

Growing up we were told that we **HAD** to go to church, that was where God was and He'd be really mad at us if we didn't go

worship Him! When our idea of having a relationship with God is only when we are able to go to a building to have it, what happens to our God then when the structure or the laity within the structure is gone?

People forget that God is not in a building, in fact Jesus conducted his ministry in the field, on the water, in the hills, and during high holy days, you might find him at the Temple. Jesus saw God as being Spirit, everywhere, that there was no place God could not be. For him, God was so big there was no place God could be contained. And that went for God's kingdom as well. "For the kingdom isn't here or there, it's within you" (Luke 17:21). In other words, it's everywhere you are!

Unity teaches that we are co-creators with God, and we're capable of directing this transformative power at every moment of our lives—directing the power to the problem. If we choose to worry about the problem, this only amplifies the difficulty, and it gets bigger. If, on the other hand, we direct the power of our thoughts toward God, turning our attention to the presence of God as we best understand that presence, the problem will resolve itself. For God is bigger than any problem we may encounter.

How big is your God? We are all tempted on a daily basis to believe more in our problems than in God. Ask yourself: Is my God big enough? Is the God I know, the God I'm relating to, the God I'm coming to experience, bigger than this problem or this challenge? Right here and now, you have the opportunity to become aware of how big your God is and that you have within you the power to call the activity of God's love to handle any and all situations in your life.