

Consciousness and the Energy of Spirit

1. *Basic Meaning*: **Consciousness** = Being aware: perception, feeling, intuition, imagination.

2. *Alternative Vision*:

- “Human vision beholds individuality and separation everywhere. Divine vision beholds the oneness of cosmic vibration, of which all things, no matter how diverse, are manifestations”
(Swami Kriyananda, Indian mystical writer).

- “Consciousness isn’t something we have; it’s what we and the whole world are.”
(Jude Currivan, *The Cosmic Hologram*, 233).

3. *PANPSYCHISM* claims that consciousness is inherent in even the tiniest pieces of matter — an idea that suggests the fundamental building blocks of reality have conscious experience. Crucially, it implies consciousness could be found throughout the universe.

4. *Consciousness and Spirit-power*

a) Post-Newtonian physics speaks of the physical universe in terms of such concepts as ENERGY, RADIATION, MAGNETISM, WAVES and FIELD THEORIES.

b) Recent theological investigations speak of the Holy Spirit in surprisingly similar terms, among them the notions of ENERGY, RADIATION, SPACE, FORCE, FIELD, LIGHT.

c) I suggest that the heart of Pneumatology after Einstein is located in a different cosmological framework constituted by the notions of ORDER, RATIONALITY, RELATIONALITY, SYMMETRY, MOVEMENT. (Wolfgang Vondey, 2009).

5. *Key Points*:

a) Everything in creation is a manifestation and expression of Spirit-energy

b) Consciousness is the secular name for Spirit-energy

c) Human consciousness is derived from cosmic consciousness

d) Conscious spirit-energy is transpersonal

e) Conscious spirit-energy comes from within, from deep silence

f) All spirituality and religion needs to reclaim the central role of Spirit-energy.

6. *Practical Implications*: - We are creation becoming aware of itself

- AWARENESS is our primary life task

- Attention and Intention determine all action

- Meaning arises from within, from the inner depths

- Cultivate a daily contemplative practice

- Read, Reflect, Dialogue, Engage the wisdom of creation

- Cultivate empowering relationships

Relevant Quotes

1. “Being fundamental, consciousness can’t be reduced to other features of the universe such as energy or matter. Thinking that the source of consciousness is in the brain is like looking in the radio for the announcer. . . . The brain does not produce consciousness; it is an instrument that tunes into and transmits it. Rather than generating consciousness, the brain may simply be a transducer that acts as a filter as it mediates consciousness at the physical level.”

(Paul Levy, *The Quantum Revelation*, 279)

2. “Consciousness is not a human phenomenon; nor does it pertain to the human brain alone. . . . We have come to understand consciousness as a cosmic phenomenon. Consciousness is integral to all aspects of cosmic life.”

(Ilia Delio, *Making all Things New*, 56; 58).

3. “Consciousness is not something that happens to us; it’s an ongoing activity emerging through our engagement with the world.”

(Jeremy Lent, *The Web of Meaning*, 184).

4. “Everybody who is seriously involved in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that a spirit is manifest in the laws of the universe a spirit vastly superior to that of mankind, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble.” (A. Einstein, 1936).

5. “As a physicist, I have spent 50 years – my entire life as a researcher –to ask, what it is that hides behind the material. And the result is simple: There is no matter; basically there is only Spirit.” (German physicist, Hans-Peter Durr)

6. “Consciousness is at the core of an emerging spirituality in this quantum universe, for consciousness, like energy, is mysteriously pervasive. We speak of divine consciousness, yet all consciousness is divine. It is a mode of divinity whereby Spirit is present in and to and through each and every one of us and every aspect of creation.”

(Miriam Therese Winter, *Paradoxology*, 94).

7. “To fully understand the Spirit, we need a different paradigm, more in line with modern cosmology. The Energy that upholds the universe, and all the beings that have been and will be, penetrates creation from beginning to end.” (Leonardo Boff, *Come Holy Spirit*, viii).

8. “Love is the infinity which links and draws together the elements of the world. Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis. Love is the free and imaginative outpouring of the Spirit, over all unexplored paths.” (Teilhard de Chardin)

REVISITING THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

1. “**Seek FIRST the Kingdom of God and its righteousness and . . .** (Matt.6:33)
2. From Kingdom, to New Reign of God, to Basileia, to Kindom, to The Companionship of Empowerment.

3. **The Transpersonal Horizon**

a) *“If separation is not the ideal, but connection is; if dualism is not the ideal but the relational embrace of diversity is; if hierarchy is not the ideal but mutuality is; then the kinship model more closely approximates reality. It sees human beings and the earth with all its creatures intrinsically related as companions in a community of life. Because we are all mutually interconnected, the flourishing or damaging of one ultimately affects all.”*

(Elizabeth Johnson, *Women, Earth, and Creator Spirit*, 1993, 30).

b) *“The rule of God refers to the intention of the Creator, the way God desires creation to be, especially human existence in a community that includes relationship with the wider life of the planet. . . . The rule of God represents no small insight. It symbolizes being drawn into the mystery of God’s intention for the universe. . . . It opens up a framework of how human beings should live and what they should live for in this world.”* (Roger Haight SJ).

c) *“Jesus of Nazareth proclaimed the “reign of God” in accordance with the pattern of the religion of creation, while denouncing the religion of empire as a demonic counterfeit . . . The biblical sense of the human being as earthly soil suffused with God’s Spirit was replaced by a Platonic and Stoic sense of the rational mind reigning in the animalistic body.”* (Wes Howard Brook)

4. **Discipleship in service of the New Companionship:**

- a) *In obedience even unto death, follow after the ecclesiastical Jesus like a docile child*
- b) ***I do not call you servants, but friends, adult co-disciples serving and earthing the Companionship of Empowerment.***

5. **Incarnational Implications: Personal – Impersonal - Transpersonal**

Aristotle: Autonomous, Self-reliant, Separate, Rational, Individual.

Alternative: “I am at all times the sum of my relationships and that is what confers my identity and makes me unique.”

6. *“Since the reign of God is especially attentive to the needy and outcast, Jesus showed a partisanship for suffering people that we can today interpret as extending to encompass the earth and its myriads of distressed species and ecosystems. His ministry reveals a wideness in God’s mercy that includes all creation.”* (Elizabeth Johnson, *Creation and the Cross*, 82)

The Lord's Prayer

(Based on John Dominic Crossan (2010), *The Greatest Prayer*)

"We are as human beings co-responsible with the Householder for the household of the world." (P.50)

**O Cosmic Householder,
Source of our wisdom, protector and provider,
embracing all that dwells in the Heavens,
naming all for holiness and justice,
in the Companionship of Empowerment,
spread throughout the entire creation,
as willed by Holy Wisdom.
In justice, may all be sustained by daily food,
and relieved of the burden of crippling debts.
Lead us not into collusion with any type of violence,
and deliver us from all forms of violent oppression.
For yours is the empowering desire to radiate on earth
the non-violent justice of enduring hope.**

"We owe it to God to run God's world responsibly. We owe the divine householder the conservation of the world house; we owe the divine Homemaker the consecration of the earth home. We owe God adequate care of all God's creation. We owe God collaboration in honouring God's name, in establishing God's kingdom, and in doing God's will "as in heaven so also on earth." We owe it to God to cease focussing on heaven, especially in order to avoid focussing on earth." (p.155).