

I BELIEVE

Rev. Thomas

AN OVERVIEW FOR ATTENDEES OF MY WORKSHOPS

My Beliefs have evolved to include the following guidelines. This will be helpful with understanding my lectures and workshops. This is my baseline.

THOMAS' DEFINITION OF TERMS:

GOD – I seldom use the term God when I teach as it is too well defined and therefore too limited – God is actually much, much greater. I now see God as the Source, The All, the Creator of all that is and as such is all there is. Creation is an expression of Source. My 2004 Grand Canyon revelation helped me see this clearly; “I Am the Creator, experiencing creation, as the created.” This is expressed in Genesis as “let us make man in our likeness and image.” Humans tend to put God on a very high pedestal and by that definition we are not gods.

ONENESS: By the above definitions there is only Oneness. There is only the illusion of separation, any differences are superficial. Any belief or practice that divides is simply too narrow to understand the whole picture. Good and Evil are human constructs that justify doing bad in the name of good. Oneness is the *forest view* of things. Yes, we are all connected. Yes, we are all brothers and sisters. And, “what you do to the least of these, you do to Me,” said Jesus of Nazareth [Gospel of Matthew].

FOREST AND TREES: I use this metaphor often it symbolizes well macro and micro understandings. An Arborist may specialize in Oak trees as a species. He may be the number one expert in his field. However, without knowledge of the forest full understanding is far from complete. The forest is complex and interactive. Both flora and fauna interact with Oak trees and have essential roles to play. Root systems of trees actually communicate and support each others health. The forest view is where you find evidence of Oneness in creation. Religion is a narrow study of trees and Spirituality is universal and the study of the forest.

INNER AND OUTER: Scripture meanings are twofold, literal and figurative. Good and Evil are prime examples. A literal understanding cannot embrace Oneness so must divide into God's people and the condemned (good guys vs bad guys). This provides justification for *good* people doing *bad* things so long as it is to *bad* people. A prime example is Jihad (holy war) in Islam. The literal application is to engage in physical war against infidels, non-believers (I. E. anyone not believing as they believe). Mystics of Islam see this quite differently as the inner war between each man's good and evil natures. Christian and other religious teachings all have these two levels of practice by followers.

MY TEACHER: While I have had many Earthly mentors and teachers on my spiritual path it is life itself that teaches me. With my expanded awareness I see Creative Source at work in all things at all times. There are no experiences that do not have potential for helpful insights. Every experience will demonstrate laws of creation at work. This is beyond belief, it is a knowing. It is seeing the pattern again and again. The keys to the universe have always been there hidden in plain sight.