

Six Principles of Process Theology

Prompts for Discernment

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*Every aspect of life is in process;
everything is always becoming and perishing,
ever changing*

All Life is Becoming

*I am what I will be: the ultimate creative power
We are listening: the arc of our becoming is shaped by our past and how we are called into the future
We are shaped and misshaped; we are called to become more wholesome, more alive*

We are going to pause for a few moments for you to listen into your life. Allow the words ‘the arc of your becoming’ to echo inside. Notice what arises. What are the edges of your becoming at this moment in your life? If you allow yourself to pause at the edge of what you know and listen, what do you sense?

Creation is an Ongoing Process

*A river flows from Eden to water the garden
With goodness, God daily renews creation
Each moment is a pearl, and over time we string the necklace*

Listen into your life...where do you notice the energy of creativity, the energy of life flowing? Where do you notice it stopped up or stuck? What are the opportunities, the challenges....what are you learning, how are you changing, what is the question being posed to you at this moment? How and where are you being called to “Choose Life!”

Pantheism: All is God and God is in All

*God is not all powerful, God is not static
God is changed by what we do
God is weeping*

All Life is Connected and Interdependent

The web: all choices have consequence and effect

If you think of discernment as 'cultivating aware participation in the web of life'...allow yourself to see your unique location in the web of life....your age and stage of life, the state of your own health in what Marge Piercy calls 'the kibbutz of elements' that is your body, reflect on the web of relationships in which you are embedded, the communities, the networks of people or organizations...what are the calls, the tugs, the invitations, opportunities, the challenges that you see or sense at this moment? If you hear the Torah's commandment: 'Choose life'....in which direction lies life? How might this opportunity or challenge be an expression of a larger sacred process that's unfolding....if you can sense that....how might you be being called by the ongoing process of creative unfolding in your unique position in the web, based on your unique gifts, location or place in history?

God's Power is Persuasive and not Coercive

God provides the lure that urges each being to their unique emerging

Discernment is a sailboat, not a motorboat

God's power is persuasive, not coercive. Every created being has an aim or ideal toward which it tends; this aim includes all the possibilities relevant for the becoming of that creature through their own freedom and creativity. According to Process theology, God provides the lure that urges each being toward their unique unfolding.

"God is the Creative Power that established this aim, and then sustains and urges beings toward that fulfillment. T Spitzer, 2005, p. 63

Divine Aim: There is a Purpose for Each Being We can have more than one purpose

God is in Process with us. God Evolves with and through Us

In process thought, God interacts with Creation, and therefore God too is in process. Far from diminishing God, this inherent relationality is foundational to the notion that God "loves" us and "needs" us, ideas that permeate biblical and rabbinic theology. God's Reality does not stand at an untouchable remove from the created world, but is in process *with* it

So, you are My witnesses, says the Lord, and I am God" (Isaiah 43.12). Rabbi Simeon ben Yohai taught, "If you are 'my witnesses,' I am God, and if you are not my witnesses, I am not, as it were, God." Midrash, Pesikta de Rab Kahana 102b