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# Weekly Bulletin #278

Looking at love

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In This Issue

[Notes from Neale](#)

[Message From Marion](#)

[Best of the Blogs](#)

[The Calendar](#)

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## Notes from Neale...

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My dear friends...

And here we are, the week before Valentine's Day...

A good time to talk about love, yes?

What a wonderful experience love is! (All love, of course...but I am talking here about romantic love in particular.) Yet so many people (myself included) have had a tough, tough time with relationships and romantic love. In my own life there has been lots of hurt involved, lots of learning, lots of sadness and challenge. I wish it all could have been easier. I wish I hadn't hurt so many others. I wish I had been more clear much earlier in my life.

I am only just now understanding so much of what I need to know about romantic relationships, about life partnerships, about this kind of love. (*Eros*, they call it. There is filial piety, or family love. There is agape, or deep-friendship love. And there is eros, or erotic love.)

All I know is, whatever you call it, it's tough on the heart. Unless it's not. All my life it has been - and most of my life it has been rough for others as well: those who have been in relationship with me. That is because I am convinced that this is because I, like so many people, entered into most of the relationships in my life for the "wrong reasons." I entered them in order to fill my needs...or what I perceived to be my needs. And when those needs were not fulfilled I became unhappy. And when I became unhappy I began looking somewhere else - and my relationships ended.

Or, they were ended *for* me.

I've come now to a new understanding of relationships and love. I have come to an awareness that love has nothing to do with "need fulfillment." Actually, I've known this for a long time...but I'm not sure I knew how to put that into practice. Now, at last, I believe I do.

All I want to do now, for the rest of my life, is the very, very best I can at loving others - those close to me, and those farther away. And, of course, I must start all this with loving

myself.

The end of my using love relationships for "need fulfillment" came when I understood at last that I *have* no needs. There is nothing that I need to survive, because my "survival" is not, and never has been, at stake. Even if I were to leave my physical body tomorrow, I will continue to survive. I will continue to exist. I will continue on my journey, filled with peace and joy and love. The happiness that I will experience will be boundless and indescribable.

Knowing this makes all the difference in the world IN the world! Now I am learning to be "in this world, but not of it." And as that becomes my more-often-than-not mode of being, I find that I am able to separate "love" from "need" in my experience of others. This allows me to love them more, in every way.

I am more "tuned in" than ever before to my soul and my heart and my mind - and to the soul-heart-mind of those I love. And yes, of all people. For I am coming to truly love all people. We are all here just trying our best to get through, to make some sense of it, to understand, to find a belief that works for us and to live that belief. We are all trying to make it, and then to get back Home.

We all have our faults and our foibles, our ups and our downs, our good points and our bad, our glorious aspects and our not-so-wonderful personality traits. And in the eyes of God, we are all - ALL of us - totally and completely and absolutely lovable, and perfect in our so-called "imperfection."

I was writing about love in romantic relationships this week in the Reader's Forum on my personal website. You may have missed what I posted there, so I thought I'd include it here, in this Letter for the Weekly Bulletin. (If you already read this, please forgive me...but the thoughts were so clear for me that I just wanted to share them with any who may have missed them...because I think this is part of how real love is experienced...)

What I said in that post is...All Love is Art. It is God's Art, in its finest form. Art is our most sacred and deep experience of life, unabashedly shared. All Art serves as either a Reminder or an Inspiration. It either reminds us of something magnificent, or it inspires us to create or produce or experience something magnificent. Love -- God's Highest Art -- does that most profoundly, I have found, in the Otherhood.

If you are in the Otherhood chances are that you can look at your loved one and say, "I love you minute-to-minute and not only moment-to-moment." Then you know you have a relationship that can last.

What I call "Moment Love" is a love that is real, but seems to be built upon our experience of special moments: How it feels when you are making love; what it's like to be walking side-by-side through the snow to a church service on Christmas Eve; the special glow of dinner and wine...

What I call "Minute-to-Minute Love" is a love that is real, but seems to be built upon our experience of every minute: How it feels to wake up with that person on a Monday morning; the fun of just grabbing soup and a salad or a quick turkey sandwich; standing in front of the bathroom mirror together and seeing your Beloved's reflection and realizing you're smiling inside...

I like this minute-to-minute love that people sometimes have -- although I experience that it is very rare. It's about reaching across the front seat while you're driving somewhere and just squeezing a leg or holding hands. Holding HANDS while DRIVING, folks! Now that's when you know you're in love "for real."

It's about making breakfast together on a lazy Sunday morning and not being able to keep your hands off each other's body parts; picking out colors together at the paint store and giggling all the way through it; watching a movie together and reacting the same way in the same places; finding it strangely exciting to work together cleaning up the house or clearing out the closet or tackling the storage bin or sitting on the carpet assembling the corner hutch that you bought on the Internet and just came in boxes and pieces and you have to figure out how to put the gosh-darned thing together...

It's about jumping in the tub together with some wine and cheese; talking until three in the morning about nothing; chuckling at each other's habits with warmth melting your heart; lying together and just staring into each other's eyes with nothing else going on...and nothing else needed for the experience to feel way beyond special.

It's about paying the bills together with a CD on the player that is a favorite of you both; going grocery shopping together and knowing exactly what the Other would want...and hugging and smooching in the aisles like teenage kids.

It's about jumping up to get that glass of water or the pen that is never where you want it or the TV remote that's across the room for no reason that anyone can think of...and doing it to save steps for your loved one and feeling soft and good inside while doing it, and being inordinately happy to see that smile on your Beloved's face when they say "gosh, thanks, honey. You are so thoughtful!"

It's about rubbing feet and massaging scalps and nuzzling necks and scratching backs and cherishing every kind of physical contact life provides -- and never wanting to miss an opportunity for another.

It's about that small shot of happiness that runs through your veins when your Beloved's voice shows up on the other end of the telephone. It's about feeling safe and deeply cared for in the middle of the night when you've had a bad dream and your Beloved hovers over you, asking softly, "Are you alright?", and then holding you like a child when you say, "Whew. I've just had the worst dream." It's about dropping all your clothes and running naked in the woods, for the sheer devilry of it...and the sheer joy of a stolen naked hug with your dearest loved one.

This is Minute-to-Minute Love, when a Saturday afternoon in September, raking the leaves and clearing out the yard with your love partner, makes it clear that you have never been happier before in your life.

You know right now if you are having these kinds of experiences. If you are, you're saying right now: "Hey, I have that!" If you don't, you're saying right now: "Hey, I want that!"

One way to create that...make SURE you tell your Other on Valentine's Day...how much you love and adore and cherish them, and every moment that you share.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day, and I'll be here again next week!

Neale.

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**Message From Marion...**  
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Hello my friends -

Well I've just returned from several weeks away from home. I'm not one who loves to travel per se, especially on business when I have to be away from my kids, but this trip was amazing and profoundly impacting on me personally.

I spent over a week with an amazing little lady in Stuart, Florida. Her name is Barbara. She is about 75 years old and she's spent the lion's share of her working life helping people get through core issues that have in one form or another been holding them back. My reason for being there was, ostensibly, to learn about her techniques, how she does what she does -- but I think the Universe had a much bigger objective in mind when it came to me.

I won't go into all of it here, but I will share that while being with her, I got the last bastions of my unfinished business out and dealt with as much as possible, I also quit smoking and am now two weeks strong in that endeavor. I'm feeling lighter and easier with the world and within myself than I ever have before.

The interesting thing and the "big duh" for me is that all of these years, as many of you have heard me discuss, I've tried very hard to become gentler in the world, in my beingness. I swear, people kept suggesting that I try to be this way, and trust me I did all I knew how to do to become more gentle and less abrasive.

Today I'm finding that after working through a bunch of this core stuff, I'm being gentler and kinder in the world and -- even more important to myself -- interiorly. It's just amazing. No longer am I finding that I'm having to work at it. I just happen to be being more of it naturally.

Those of us who work with the CwG material talk often about "finishing your unfinished business," and many of you who are regular readers of my column have walked through a lot of this with me while I've been doing it these last few years. I wasn't sure until now that I thought that ever really getting "finished" was an attainable goal. I guess I held it as a lifelong process.

Today I'm forced to reconsider that assumption, because I finally feel clearer and cleaner than I've ever felt before. Is all my "unfinished business" finished? I'm not totally sure, but I can tell you that it's as finished as it can be right now - and that's more than I ever imagined possible.

I urge you all to step out and tackle the things that have been holding you back. Take the bull by the horns and do whatever it takes to gain your personal sovereignty and power. The results are just magnificent, the feelings without compare!

Now I know I said in my last article that I'd start re-reading all the *Conversations with God* books and would be writing about that experience over the months to come. I decided to start with *What God Wants* - (head bowed in shame - hoping Neale doesn't read this) because I've never read it, or *Home with God*, completely.

I will be starting next week with the insights and understandings I gain through the reading of the first ten chapters of *What God Wants*. It's a short book that's very easy to read - so if you want to read along with me, I think it would be great!

Trust me...I'm a very busy woman, so the amount I read week-to-week will be doable for anyone. Please go buy the book and read along with me, and if you have questions or thoughts about what you read, send me an e-mail at marion@cwg.org.

Blessings to you all,

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**Best of the Blogs...**

Each week we present in this space the best from past entries on the worldwide CwG Blog. The blog can be accessed daily on the home page at [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com).

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Category: [Life and the New Spirituality](#)

[Of flying saucers and things...](#)

Do you believe in flying saucers? Many folks near Stephenville, Texas do. That is, they do now.

It all began January 8th, when a county constable, some very well respected business owners, and other folks as well swear that they saw in the sky an object that was faster, larger, quieter, and flying lower to the ground than any airplane they ever saw. So much for the statement by the Air Force Reserve in Fort Worth that it had fighter jets in the area, training, and there was nothing more to it than that.

Oh, there were fighter jets in the air, alright, those local residents say, but they were not training. They were chasing the large object with bright lights that everyone says they saw.

"I guarantee that what we saw was not a civilian aircraft," Steve Allen, a pilot and freight company owner, was quoted in press reports last week.

And so here we are again, faced with the question we have been asking for what seems like forever. Is there life on other planets? Are we being visited by celestial beings from elsewhere in the galaxy -- or the universe?

To me it always seems surprising that anyone could ever doubt that this is true. In any event, I see it as a purely scientific inquiry. Yet many people of faith believe that a 'yes' answer to these questions borders on blasphemy. I can understand why. For if there really

is intelligent life on other planets, if a sentient species or two does exist elsewhere in the cosmos, what does that do to all of our notions about "God"?

Is "our" God the God of these beings as well? Do they live by the same moral codes that we have accepted as the Word of God and, therefore, inviolable sacred law? If not, then what IS the sacred law of the universe? What does God require, demand, request, desire? Is "our" God the God of Gods...or are we "children of a lesser God"?

Worse yet, have we made it all up? Is God nothing but a local superstition, created by and lived as if it were real by the creatures who inhabit this planet?

What could we learn from intelligent beings from outer space? What might we come to know about Who and What God is, and what God wants?

These are all good questions -- and they are also the reasons why not many people want to hear too terribly much just now from the people of Stephenville, Texas. Sometimes ignorance *is* bliss.

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**The Calendar**  
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A look at events at which Neale Donald Walsch will share the message of *Conversations with God* in the weeks ahead. You can learn more about the work of the ReCreation Foundation at these events...and on its official website, www.cwg.org, as well.

NOTE: Not all events are sponsored by the ReCreation Foundation.

February 23rd, 2008

Las Vegas, Nevada

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatlasvegas.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 8th, 2008

Tampa Bay, Florida

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreattampabay.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 11th, 2008

Baltimore, Maryland

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatbaltimore.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

March 15th, 2008

Atlanta, Ga

Happier than God Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/retreatatlanta.cfm>

<http://www.nealedonaldwalsch.com/contact.cfm>

April 9-13, 2008

Tampa, Florida

Celebrate Yourself Workshop

Contact: Will: 352-442-2244

<http://www.cwg.org/main.php?p=Retreats&sub=RSchedule>

May 3-4, 2008

Infinity Foundation

God and Me: A Journey to Holy Ground

Chicago, IL

Contact: 847-831-8828

www.infinityfoundation.org

May 9-14, 2008

Hollyhock Retreat Center

Cortes Island, BC

5-day Intensive Workshop

Contact: registration@hollyhock.ca

www.hollyhock.ca

1-800-933-6339

May 16-18, 2008

Mexico City, Mexico

Workshop

Contact: mariluf@expo-ser.com

May 24-25, 2008

Humanity's Team Oneness Summit

Buenos Aires, Argentina

htargentina@gmail.com

www.humanitysteam.com.ar

+54 11 4783-3881

May 31 - June 2, 2008

Celebrate Your Life Event

Chicago, Illinois

www.celebrateyourlife.org

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NOTE: If you would like to send a comment or a question to Neale here at the Weekly Bulletin, you may do so by addressing an email to: weeklybulletinresponse@CwG.org

Please note that because of the volume of mail that we receive, it is possible your letter will not get printed here. However, we do our best to see that all letters get a response, if not directly from Neale, then from a CwG Foundation staff person, or LEP participant.