



Pope Francis

‘Evangelii Gaudium’

‘The Joy of the Gospel’

‘I have said these things to you so that **my joy** may be in you, and that **your joy** may be complete’ (John 15:11; quoted n.5).

‘The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.

In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church’s journey in years to come.’

The opening paragraph of the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Francis 24th November 2013, Feast of Christ the King.

Including a presentation of the results of the Synod on Evangelisation held in Rome in 2012 (see n.16, 73).

## The Joy of the Gospel (nn. 2-18)

### The Importance of 'knowing' the real Jesus

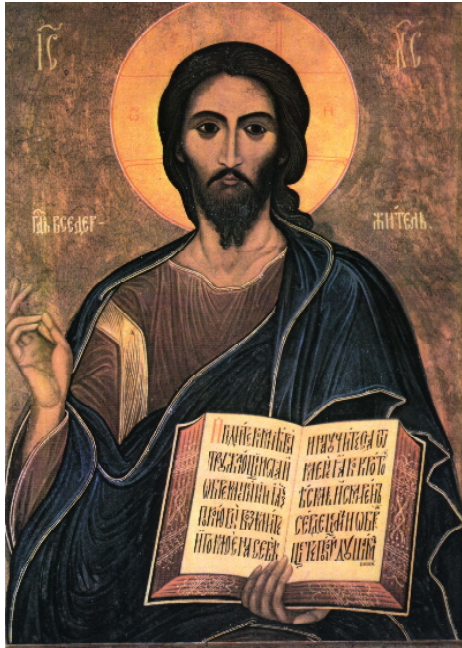
'A dignified and fulfilled life' : 'the life in the Spirit which has its source in the heart of the risen Christ'<sup>(n.2)</sup>

'I never tire of repeating those words of Benedict XVI which take us to the very heart of the Gospel: "Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction"'('God is love', 1; quoted n.7).

'All of us need to grow in Christ. Evangelization should stimulate a desire for this growth, so that each of us can say wholeheartedly: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me"' (*Galatians* 2:20) (n. 160).

'A true missionary, who never ceases to be a disciple, knows that Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise. Unless we see him present at the heart of our missionary commitment, our enthusiasm soon wanes and we are no longer sure of what it is that we are handing on; we lack vigour and passion. A person who is not convinced, enthusiastic, certain and in love, will convince nobody'<sup>(n. 266)</sup>.

### 1John 1:1-3



‘We declare to you what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life — this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us.

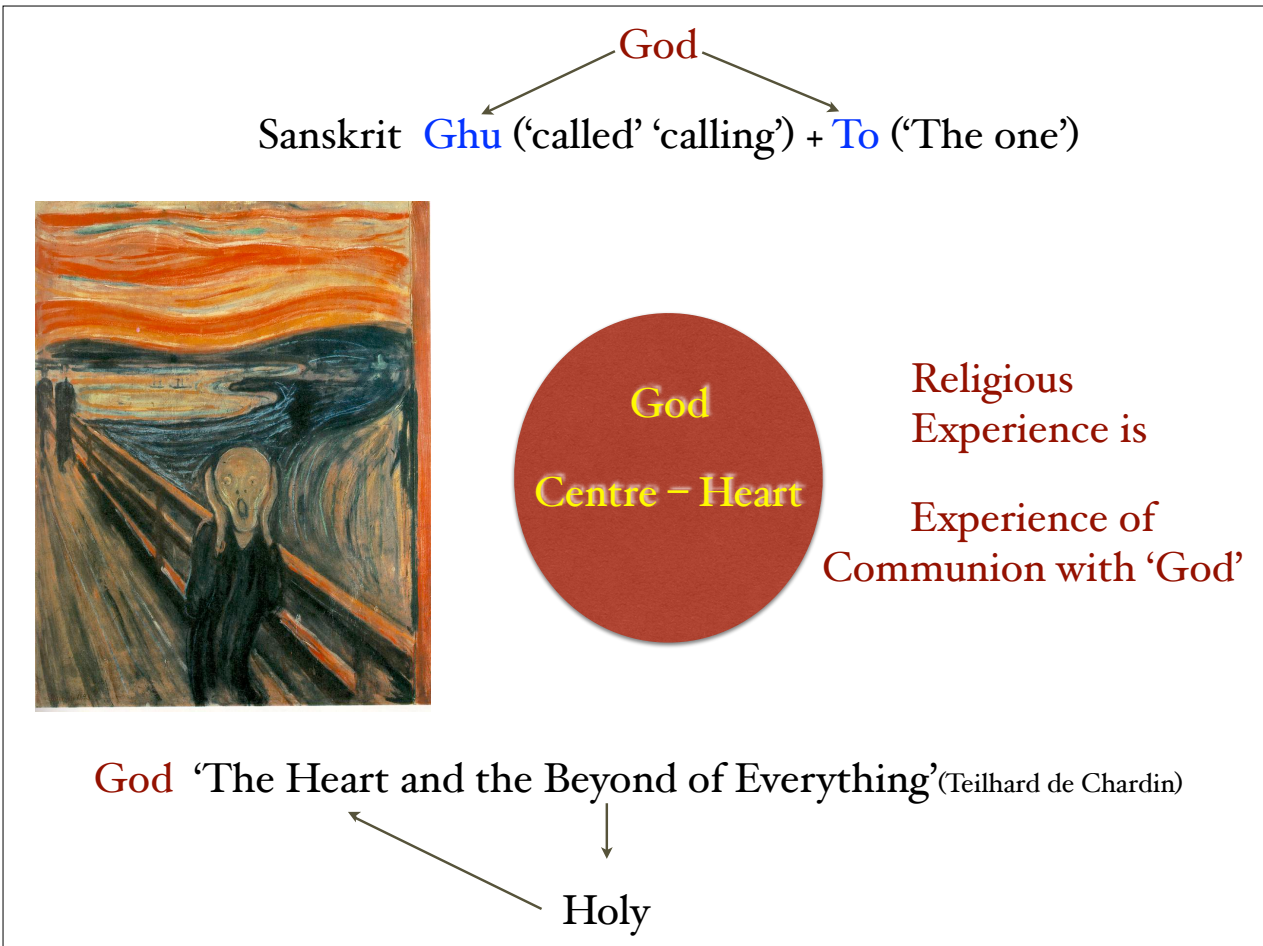
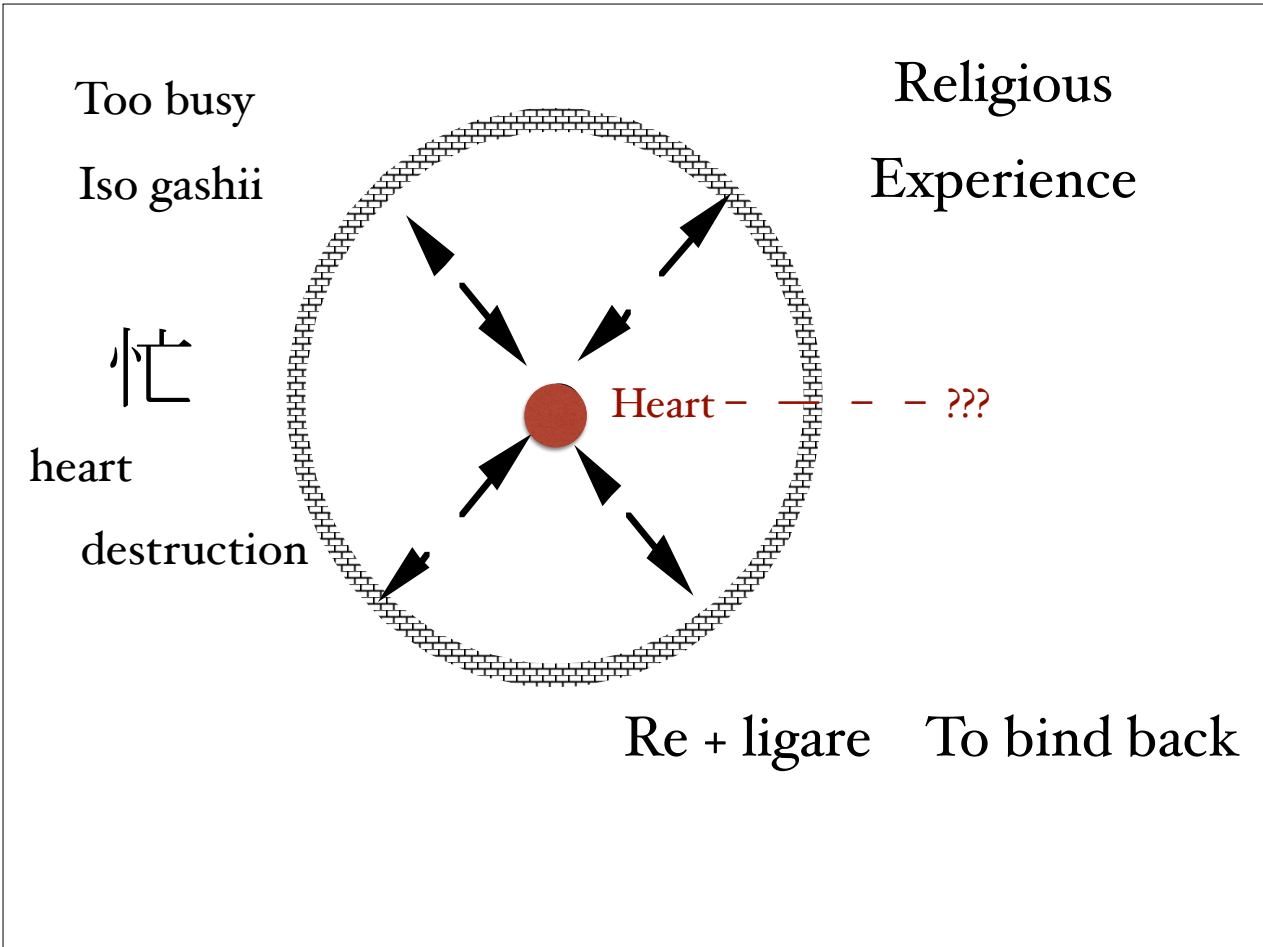
We declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you may have communion with us;

and truly our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus the Messiah.’

We are privileged to have the portrait of Jesus given us by [Paul](#)

This is enriched by the portraits we find in the [Four Gospels](#). Each Gospel presents its own, necessarily limited, portrait of Jesus, and its own interpretive commentary. Each Gospel aims to communicate the significance of the real Jesus to the communities for which it was composed.

The fact that the four Gospels were treasured, copied, and read in the Christian assemblies in the East, in Egypt, in Asia Minor, in Greece and in Rome, is the source of our confidence that in each of the Gospels and in the four together we are seeing and hearing the real Jesus.



God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- in nature
- in people & events
- in words spoken & written
- in works of art

They reveal something of the truth, beauty & goodness  
of the transcendent & mysterious God

Gerard Manley Hopkins : God's Grandeur (1877)

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.

It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;

It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil

Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?      reckon: consider

Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;

And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;

And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil

Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;

There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;

And though the last lights off the black West went

Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs –

Because the Holy Ghost over the bent

World broods with warm breast and ah! bright wings.

God's **WORD** (self-gift) is experienced

- the Vedas & Upanishads
- the sayings of K'ung-fu-tzu (Confucius)
- the sayings of Gautama the Buddha
- the oracles of the Hebrew Scriptures
- the New Testament
- the Moslem Qur'an
- the mystics, poets, artists of all cultures

## Danger

Projecting a 'God' limited by our human experiences

Creating a 'God' in our own image

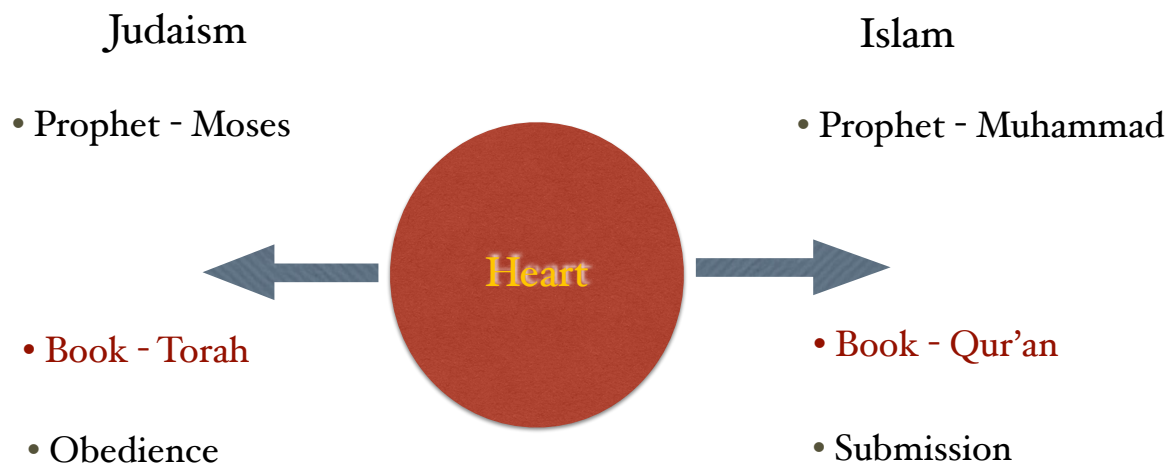
This spawns

atheism: the rejection of a limited God

agnosticism: failure to explore the implications of our experience

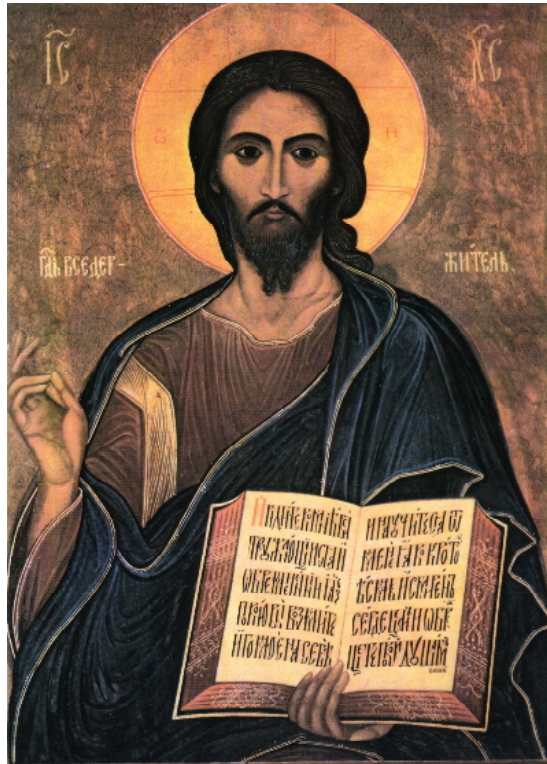


## Dangers in Institutionalised Religion



## Fundamentalist 'Christianity'

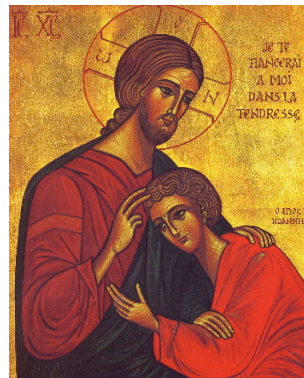
- Book - New Testament
- Book - Catechism
- Obedience / Submission



Matthew 11:28-29

Buddhism

points us to the heart

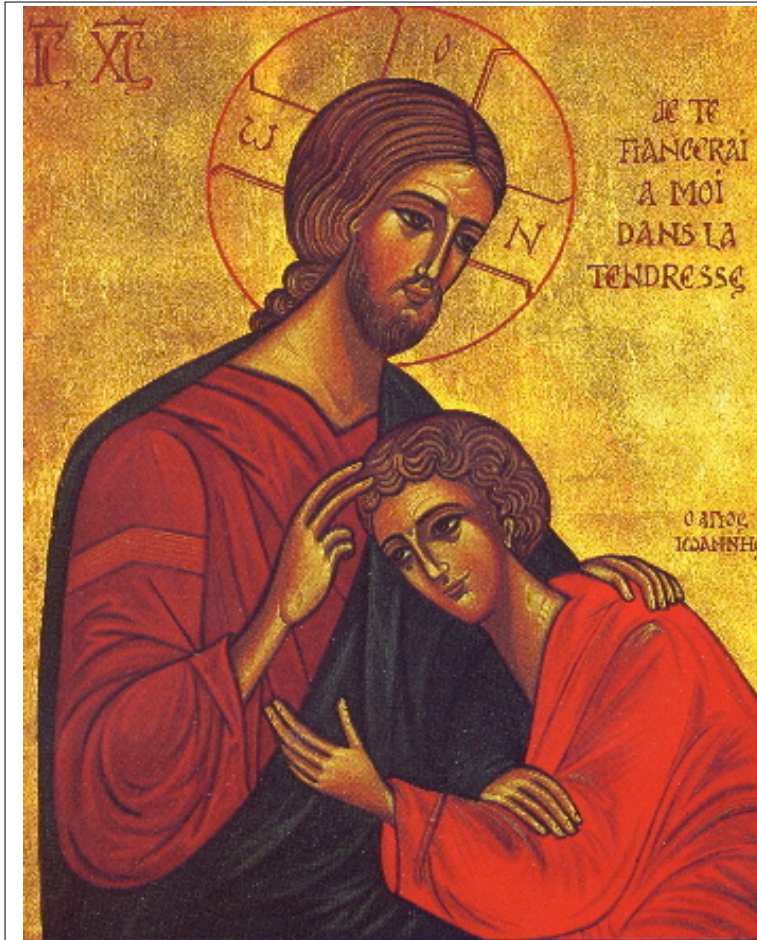


Heart

speaks to

heart





John 3:34

‘He whom God has sent speaks the words of God;

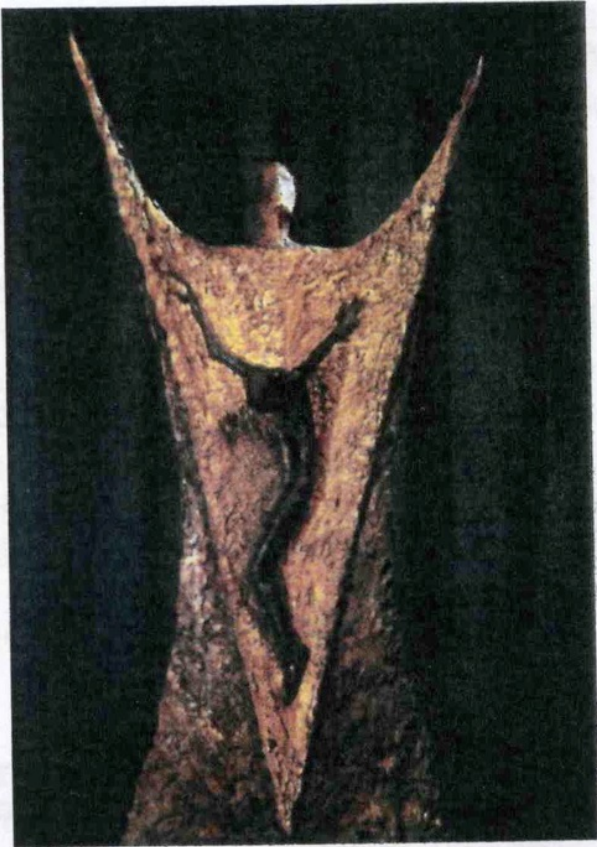
he gives the Spirit without measure.’

Romans 5:5

‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.’







- 'I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you'(John 14:20).
- 'I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me'(John 17:21).



Tintoretto

**‘I have come to cast fire upon the earth  
and how I wish it were blazing already’** (Luke 12:49)

Teilhard de Chardin 1934

‘Some day,  
after harnessing space,  
the winds,  
the tides  
and gravitation,

We shall harness for God  
the energies of Love.

And then,  
for the second time in the history of the  
world,  
we shall have discovered fire.’

**‘You have made us for yourself, O God,  
and our hearts are restless till they rest in you’** (Augustine Confessions I.1).

Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10.

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching  
must be directed to the love that never ends.  
Whether something is proposed for belief,  
for hope or for action,  
the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,  
so that anyone can see  
that all the works of perfect Christian virtue  
spring from love  
and have no other objective  
than to arrive at love.’



'I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete'(John 15:11).

Open my eyes, Lord (singles)