

# 01. Religious Experience



**Christian Belief**

**Christian Living**

**Church**

**Creation**

**Education**

**Fundamentalism**

**God**

**Islam**

**Jesus**

**Liturgy**

**Mission**

**MSC**

**New Testament**

**Old Testament**

**Pope Francis**

**Prayer**

**Priesthood**

**Religious Life**

**RCIA/Cursillo.**

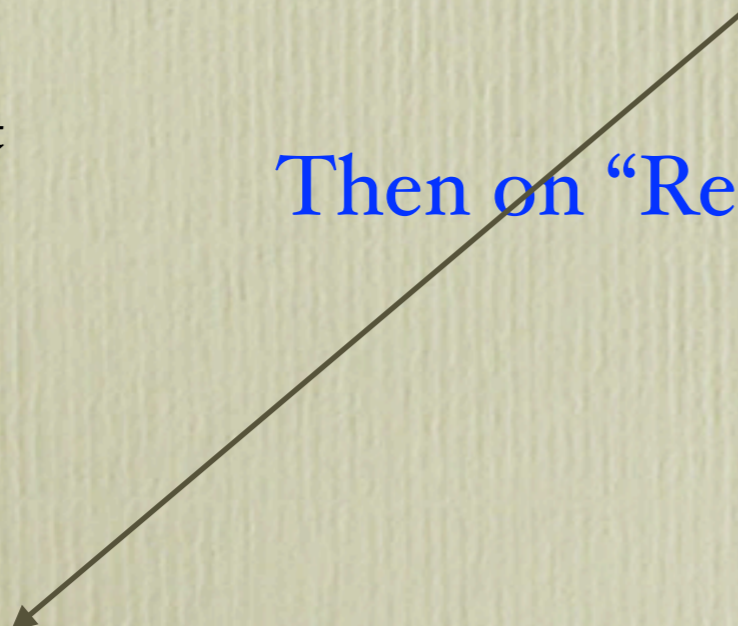
[mbfallon.com](http://mbfallon.com)

**Welcome to my site**

**Index of Topics**

**Click on “Religious Life” (left menu)**

**Then on “Retreat 1”**



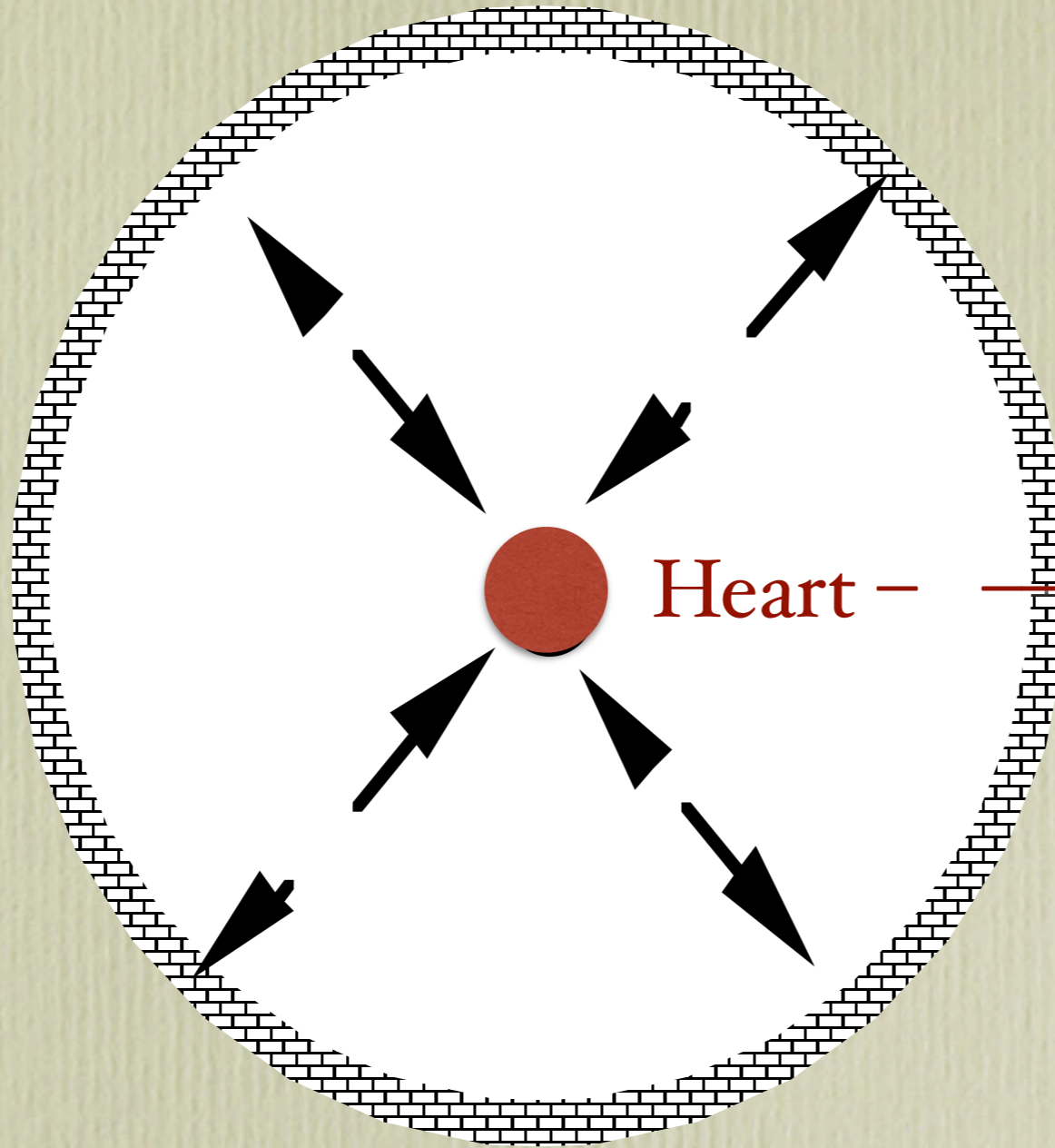
Too busy

Iso gashii

忙

Heart

Destruction



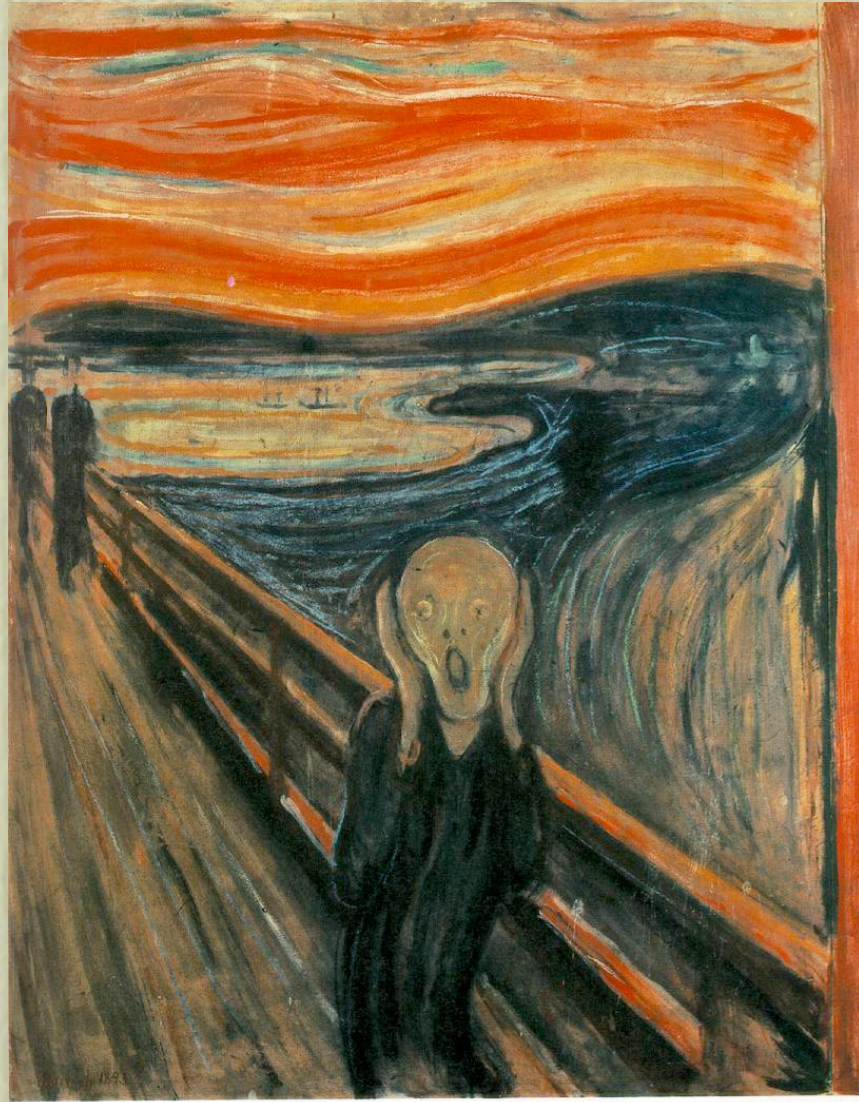
Religious  
Experience

Re + ligare

To bind back

God

Sanskrit **Ghu** ('called' 'calling') + **To** ('The one')



God

Centre – Heart

Religious  
Experience is

Experience of  
Communion with 'God'

God 'The Heart and the Beyond of Everything' (Teilhard de Chardin)

Holy

## MSC Constitutions

‘We are a religious Society dedicated to works of the apostolate. We become members by professing public vows of obedience, chastity and poverty **in response to a call from God**’ (n. 2).

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

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



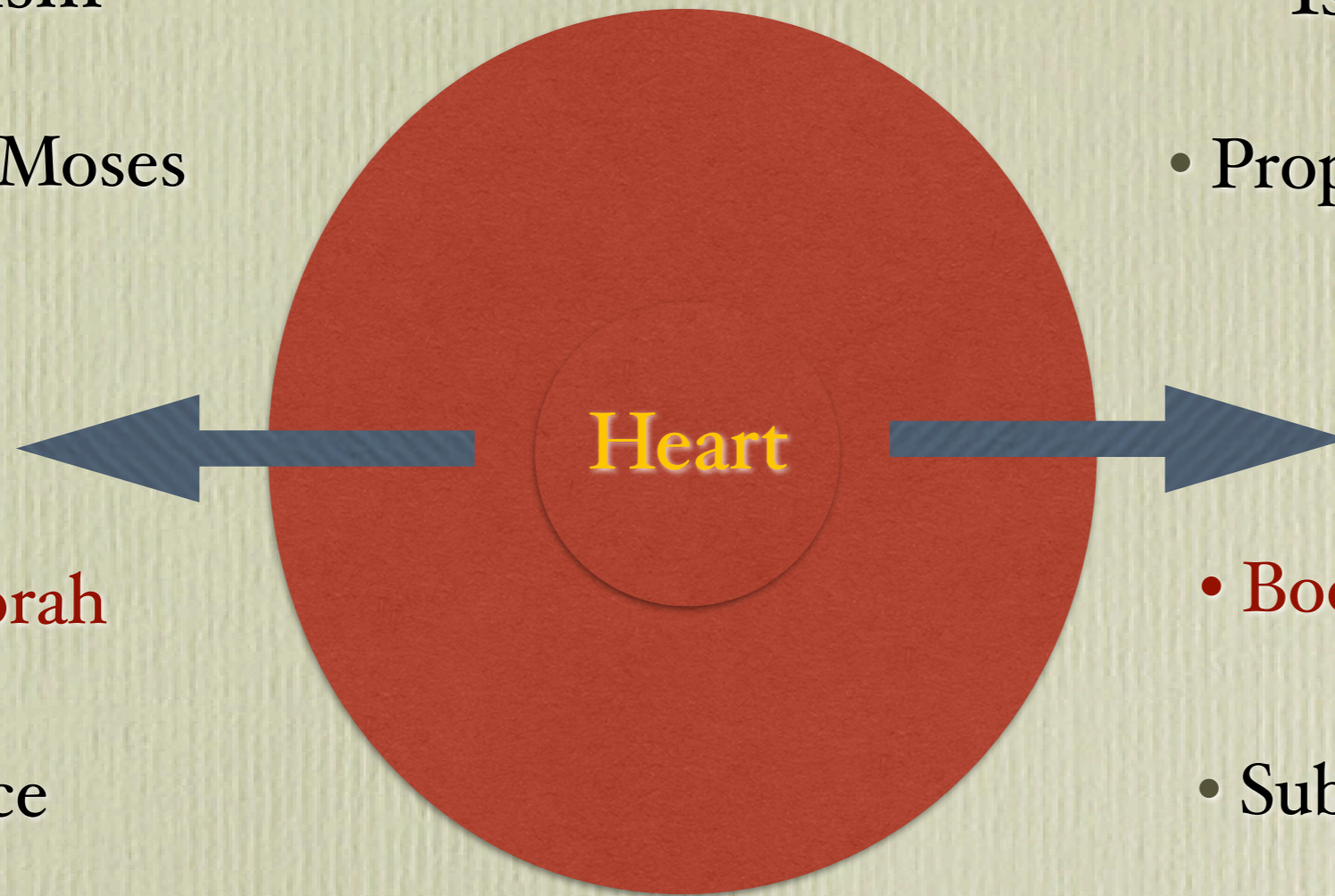
# Dangers in Institutionalised Religion

## Judaism

- Prophet - Moses
- Book - Torah
- Obedience

## Islam

- Prophet - Muhammad
- Book - Qur'an
- Submission



## Fundamentalist 'Christianity'

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

Buddhism points us to the heart

Spirit



Enlightenment

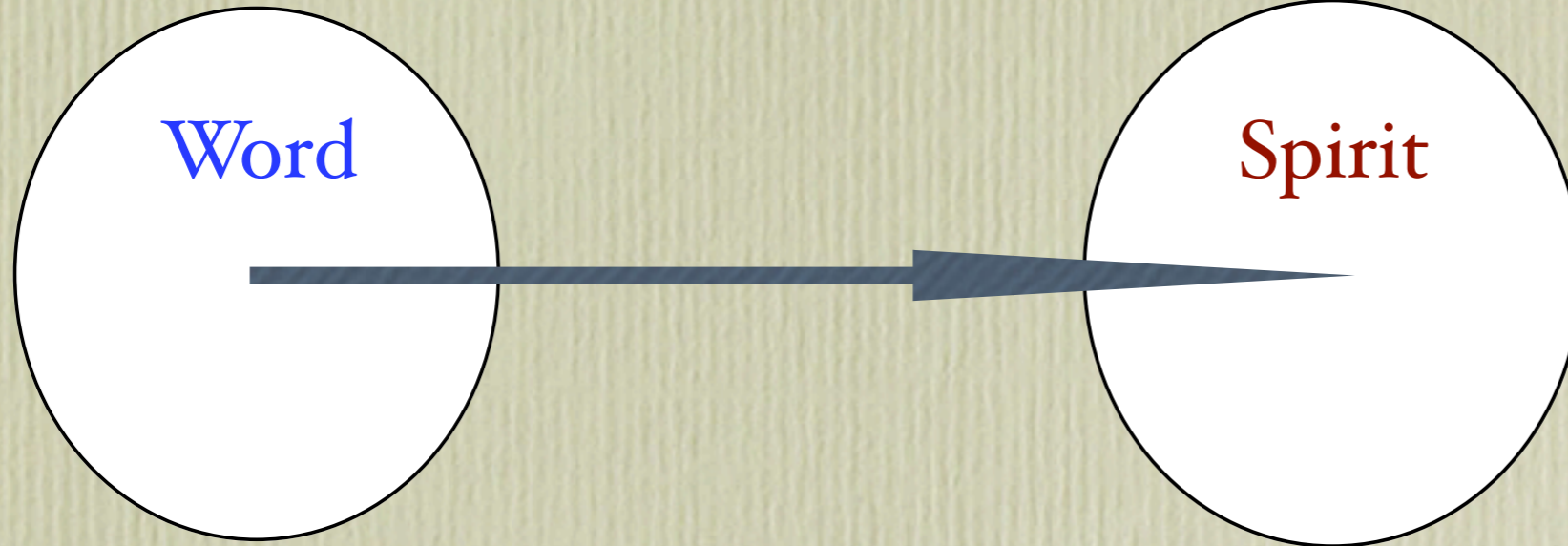
# Transcendent ('holy') God



# Revelation

Numinous

Mystical



Heart

speaks to

Heart

## 1 John 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 Christ.

# Knowing

‘I am the good shepherd.

As the Father knows me and I know the Father,  
in the same way, I know my sheep and they know me.’

(John 10:14 quoted MSC Constitutions page 6).



Matthew 11:28-29 (quoted MSC Constitutions page 48)



## 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).

‘I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already.’

(Luke 12:49).



## MSC Constitutions n. 9

‘When Jesus laid down his life,  
when his side was opened,  
he gave us his Spirit,  
who pours love into our hearts,  
and gives us the will to serve.  
Looking on him who was pierced,  
we see the new Heart that God has given us,  
an inexhaustible source of life.’

## Galatians 2:19

‘I live, no longer I. It is Christ who lives in me.  
And the life I live now, I live by the faith of the Son of God,  
loving me and giving himself for me.’

## Philippians 3:8 (quoted MSC Constitutions page 40)

‘I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ, and be in complete communion with him.’

# Jesus is looking to his Father

The Father is looking towards the Spirit



The Spirit is looking at the Eucharistic gifts on the table.

The one looking at the icon is invited to join them at the table.



Teilhard de Chardin SJ (1881-1955)

‘The evolution of chastity’ 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.’





‘From the Heart of Jesus pierced on Calvary, I see a new world coming forth – a great and life-giving world, inspired by love and mercy: a world which the Church must perpetuate on the whole earth.’

(Sacred Heart 1900)

quoted MSC Constitutions page iv

‘Jesus went up on the mountain,  
and called to him those he desired;  
and they came to him.  
And he appointed twelve,  
to be with him,  
and to be sent out’ (Mark 3:13-14)

### MSC Constitutions 9-10

‘Looking on him who was pierced,  
we see the new Heart  
that God has given us,  
an inexhaustible source of life ...

‘We want to proclaim his love to the world.’

Next

o2. Jesus: king, prophet, priest



All you need to know