

PODCAST 170

Om Sri Sai Ram

Prasanthi Sandesh, episode 170 welcomes you.

If you ask any theist or believer, "What is your goal," they say, "God is my goal." I see. Good. It's quite natural. Such an answer is expected.

Now, a goal involves time and is futuristic. Therefore when I say, "It is a goal," it is fallacious. When there is a goal, there must be a way. So by saying, "There's a way," it is the goal that you have been postponing.

So the idea of God as a goal is futuristic, meaning projected into the future. It also implies that God is somewhere else, so we have to travel there. Thus religion becomes a journey. So time and space are involved when we say, "God is my goal." But actually speaking, God is not a journey, God is not a goal. We cannot take it as a futuristic design or plan. Religion is not a journey.

So some people say, "I am waiting for God to come into my life." It's also wrong. God is not going to 'happen' to you. God has already happened because you are already alive! What is life? Who is breathing in you? Who is conscious in you? God is not to be known; God is the Knower. God is not an object that you have to see. God is the Seer in you!

So what our *guru* does is this: he will wake up all of us to the reality of God. It's like if a man is asleep while it is spring. The flowers are blooming, the birds are singing and the trees are green, celebrating spring, but the man is asleep. He is unaware of the spring. He is unaware of the flowers and the bird songs. He is unaware of everything that is happening because he is fast asleep. Any moment the man can open his eyes. Any situation will help him to awaken. Suddenly he'll be surprised that there was no need to go anywhere. All was already here. That's how it happens when a man really wakes up. He does not need to travel anywhere.

All travelling is dreaming. All pilgrimage is dreaming and desiring. Our religions have made God a goal, so our mind is perfectly satisfied because the mind can exist only if there is a goal. The mind needs to focus its attention; the mind needs a way to remain tense. If there is a goal, then the mind can remain desiring, unfulfilled and frustrated, hoping one day to get it. This is how the mind can nourish itself. It can dream about the joys of finding God, with all the beauties and blessings. It can create paradise in its imagination. All these are simply dreams of the mind. Let us understand this.

Never think of the future because the moment you think of the future you have slipped out of reality and fallen into the ditch of dreaming. Therefore we have to come out of this sleep and dreaming. We should be alert to that which is already here, like the beating in our heart. It is God beating in our heart. He is pulsating in our very being, in every fibre of our body and of our being. That aliveness is God. God is not a person but that Presence.

Having a goal helps you remain the same as you are. The goal helps you to remain asleep and dreaming. It becomes a new dream, a new desire, a new ambition - how to attain God? It's all an ego trip. So the ego has to be shattered because the ego is a kind of shell which surrounds us and keeps us oblivious to our reality. It keeps us encapsulated within ourselves. It does not allow us to open our eyes and see what is happening.

God is this total existence happening. Be silent and know there is nowhere to go. There is nothing to achieve. No ambition has to be fulfilled. God has already decided to be inside you. That's why you are alive. Therefore this is a fact. That's why Swami says repeatedly that you are God. You are God already. *Thath Tvam Asi, Aham Brahmasmi.*

Nothing has to be changed at all. Only one thing has to happen, and that's not a change really but just the other side of you. One side is asleep, while the other side is awakening. One side or aspect of you is sleep, darkness, the night part. The other side is the day part. Just wake up and you'll be surprised to find that there is no need to desire anything. God has already given it to you. He has given Himself. He lives in you. He resides in you.

All religions are ways. All religions are new directions for the ego, new projections, new desires and sometimes far more dangerous than the ordinary desire. A man who desires money is not in such a mess or confusion as a man who desires God because money can be found by desiring it. Money can only be found by desiring it. Yes, and God can never be found by desiring. God can only be found by non-desiring. So miserable is the man, most miserable is the man who desires God. So we have to understand this.

It's not like a political power to attain some day. It's not like acquiring money some day. It's not like that. If you go in search of God, you'll miss Him. The very search will be the cause of your misery. Where are you going? He's inside and you are going outside! Go to Jerusalem or Kaaba or Kashi or Buddha Gaya. Wherever you go, it is all outside. All going is extrovert. On the other hand, going within or in-going is not 'going' at all.

What is in-going? When you don't go outside, you are in. It's not really a 'going' at all. Not even a single step has to be taken. There is no space inside where you can walk and go. When it is said, "Go within," it is said only metaphorically. What is actually meant is, 'stop going out'. Stop completely. The main point is no more going outside.

Then suddenly you are in, within. This is important. You'll simply be inside; you'll find yourself inside. Your outgoing was preventing you from finding yourself. Stop seeking. That's the only way to find God. Stop desiring. That's the only way to find God. So it is not a matter of religion.

Actually speaking, when it comes to Swami, when we love Swami, we find for the first time the real taste of Krishna, Rama, Jesus, and Buddha. Yes. We find for the first time that yes, by loving Bhagavan, by being with Bhagavan, we can love any

one of our presiding deities. Yes. In fact there are many Buddhists who say that after coming to Swami, they have for the first time had an insight of what Buddha is.

By being with Swami, in communion with Swami, one will be in communion with Zoroaster, with Lao Tze, with Mahavira, with Mohammed. But this is a totally different approach. Swami is the door. When you enter into Swami, when you get into His heart, you find it's all Buddha. It is all like the ocean. You can taste it from anywhere. It is salty, saline. That's what we have to understand.

There can be other ways, otherwise it's absolutely impossible to know the truth. Unless you are very intelligent, alert and watchful, unless you look at your conditioning and become a witness, it is impossible.

Therefore, let us know our conditioned mind. That conditioning is so subtle that once you are caught in it, you become incapable of thinking or seeing anything that goes against your conditioning. You become deaf to it. So let us be very alert.

You know, have you ever thought in this direction? Our so-called religions only condition us. They make us antagonistic. They create conflict. They don't allow us to create a brotherhood. They don't allow us to create a humanity. Well, all that we see, done in the name of religion, all amounts to exhibitionism. That is neurosis. That man is pathological.

Of course, we have been given different ideas in the name of religions, but God is beyond. So first of all, we should have information or the knowledge which is most important, what our scriptures call *prajnana*, the wisdom, and *aadyatprajnana*, the knowledge of the self, *atmavidya*, the knowledge of the self. So by knowing what is what, in that state we bloom, not merely by acquiring information.

Once we go beyond this information, and absorb, emulate and digest all that has been read, God starts opening up within our being. So it is not a mere teaching. It's more than that. So the knowledge, philosophy and all systems of thought, all theologies, all religions, are just the opposite of what we have been saying all along.

And by dropping all, you can be in communion with Bhagavan. It is communion, not following. Just as Swami says, all religions are His. All names are His. All forms are His. This sort of an idea helps you to be in communion with Him. In communion you respect, you love as equals. *Bhakthasakha* Bhagavan, Bhagavan is your friend.

You are not inferior. You are just asleep, that's all. Your sleep does not make you inferior at all. Your sleep simply gives you dreams. In fact, when Buddha became enlightened, somebody asked him, "What have you gained?"

Buddha said, "I have not gained anything. But I have lost many things. I have lost my desires, my dreams, my sleep, my anger, my greed, my ambition, my ego. I have lost so many things. I have lost them all. But I have gained nothing. Nothing at all. But by losing all those things, I have come home. I have become just myself – there's a purity, a clarity, a cloudless sky." This is a perfect understanding, a perfect awareness of your reality.

Therefore we should know the truth that by travelling somewhere, by expecting something to happen in the future, these are all whimsical ideas.

Let us not take God as our goal. You are God.

Sai Ram. Meet later.