

***Supplemental images and narrative to**
Is Your God Big Enough? Close Enough? You Enough?
Jesus and the Three Faces of God
by Paul Smith



CHAPTER 5
WHY I STILL TALK TO JESUS
(pages 117-148)



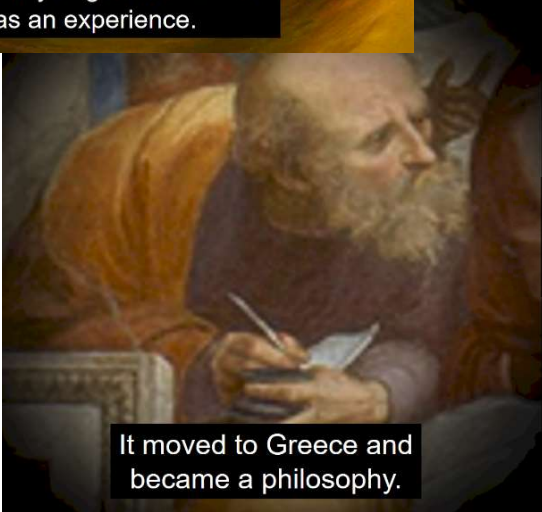
Here's a history of Christianity —
in five sentences:





1

Christianity began in Palestine
as an experience.



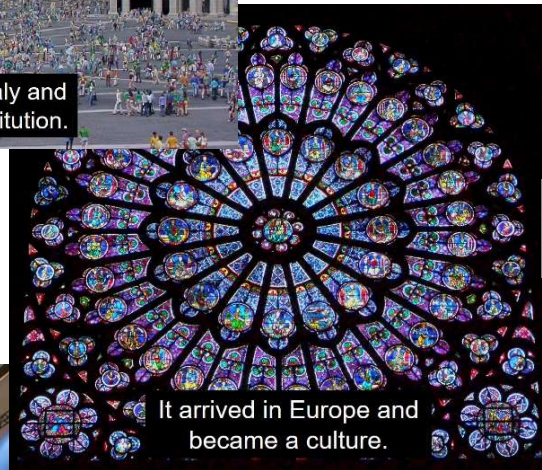
2

It moved to Greece and
became a philosophy.



3

It shifted to Italy and
became an institution.



4

It arrived in Europe and
became a culture.



5

*Conclusion:
Christianity was an
experience before it
became a religion!*

what was this experience that was the foundation of Christianity?

The transforming friendship that Jesus had with a few others.

"I no longer call
you subordinates,
but I call you
friends."

John 15:15



This friendship has continued, interpreted in various ways, with those who are open to that friendship down through history and into today.

SIX PRACTICES IN SITTING WITH JESUS

1. Recognize the presence of Jesus.

Jesus is always present. We do not need to invite him, ask him, or wonder if he is there.

However, we do need to turn our attention toward him.

You may not physically see, hear, or feel him

But you can inwardly sense him present.



(Jesus in transparent form represents his spiritual body rather than his physical body.)

2. Connect heart to heart by crossing the devotional threshold.

DEV♥TION

One does not automatically connect with Jesus like doing pushups. It takes a heartfelt welcome for your heart to connect with his.

When that is difficult for me to do, I ask myself “How would I feel if the Jesus that walked the earth 2000 years ago was standing here next to me, how would I feel?”



3. Sit quietly in mutual awareness.

Be aware that Jesus is with you, loving you.

Know that Jesus is aware of you. He knows your name and everything about you. He knows what you need.



4. Communicate back and forth.

Say, think, feel, draw, or in whatever way fits for you, express your feelings and thoughts to Jesus. Listen for words, thoughts, images, sensations, feelings, or other ways Jesus might express himself to you.



5. Soak up the love and light

Like soaking in warm sunshine on a beautiful day, soak in the healing, nurturing energetic presence of Jesus. Sometime I place my hand on the part of my body than needs healing. Or I will picture another person I wish to be surrounded by the healing presence of Jesus.



6. Merge with Jesus.

(Transparent images represent spiritual bodies rather than physical ones)

You invite Jesus to come into you and become you as you become him. The two of you become one.

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.

Jesus - Rev. 3:20

Whoever drinks from my mouth will become like me, and I will become like that one, and what is hidden will be revealed.

Jesus - Gospel of Thomas, Saying 108



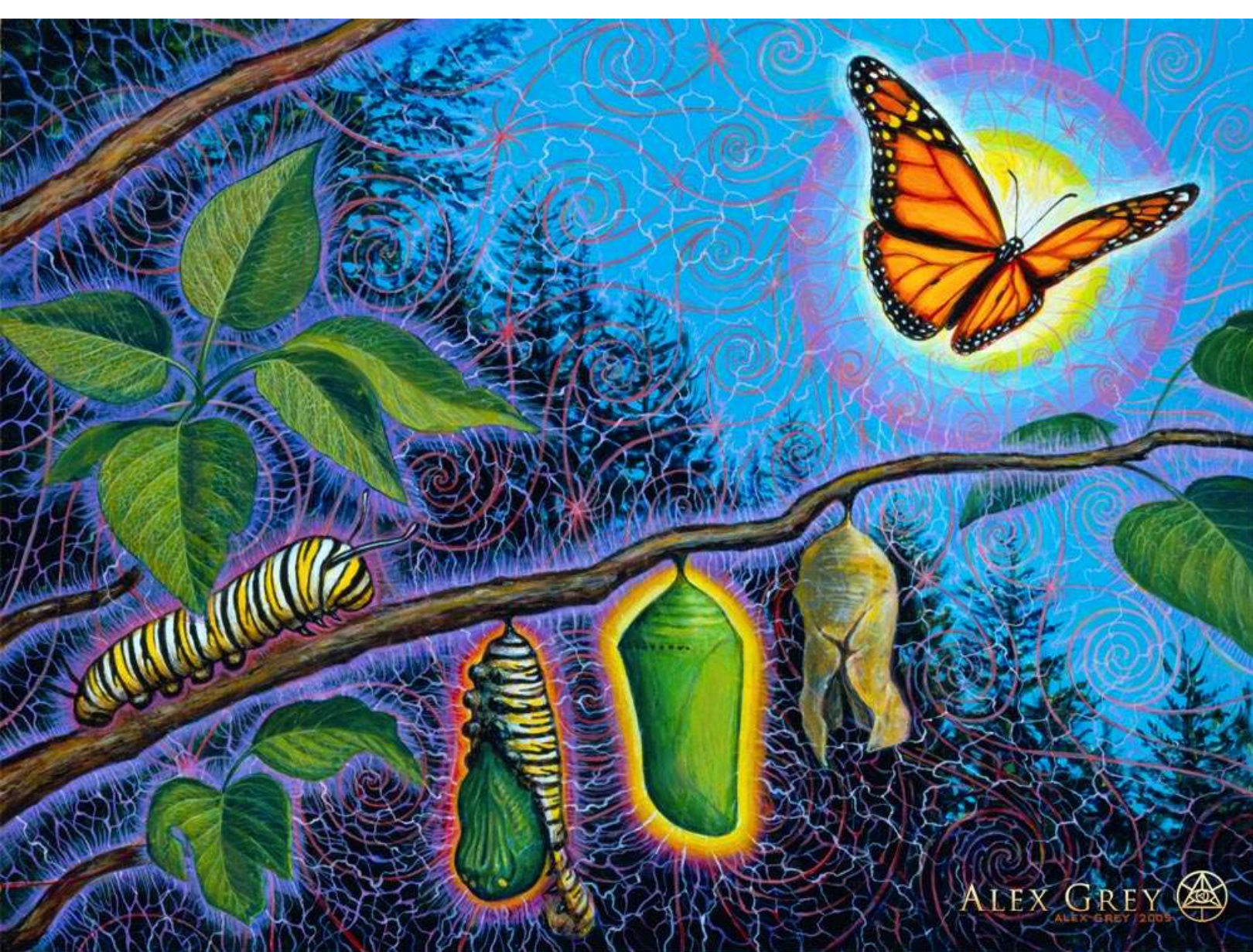
Jesus said, "Whoever drinks from my mouth will become like me, and I will become like that one." (Gospel of Thomas 108)

Jesus called us his brothers and sisters (Hebrews 2:11).
Like all brothers and sisters, we share the same DNA
as our parents and our brothers and sisters.

We share the same divine/human DNA as Jesus.

DNA molecule

The more we soak up the presence of Jesus, the more our inner spiritual DNA which is just like that of Jesus comes to be openly present in our lives.



Metamorphosis by Alex Grey

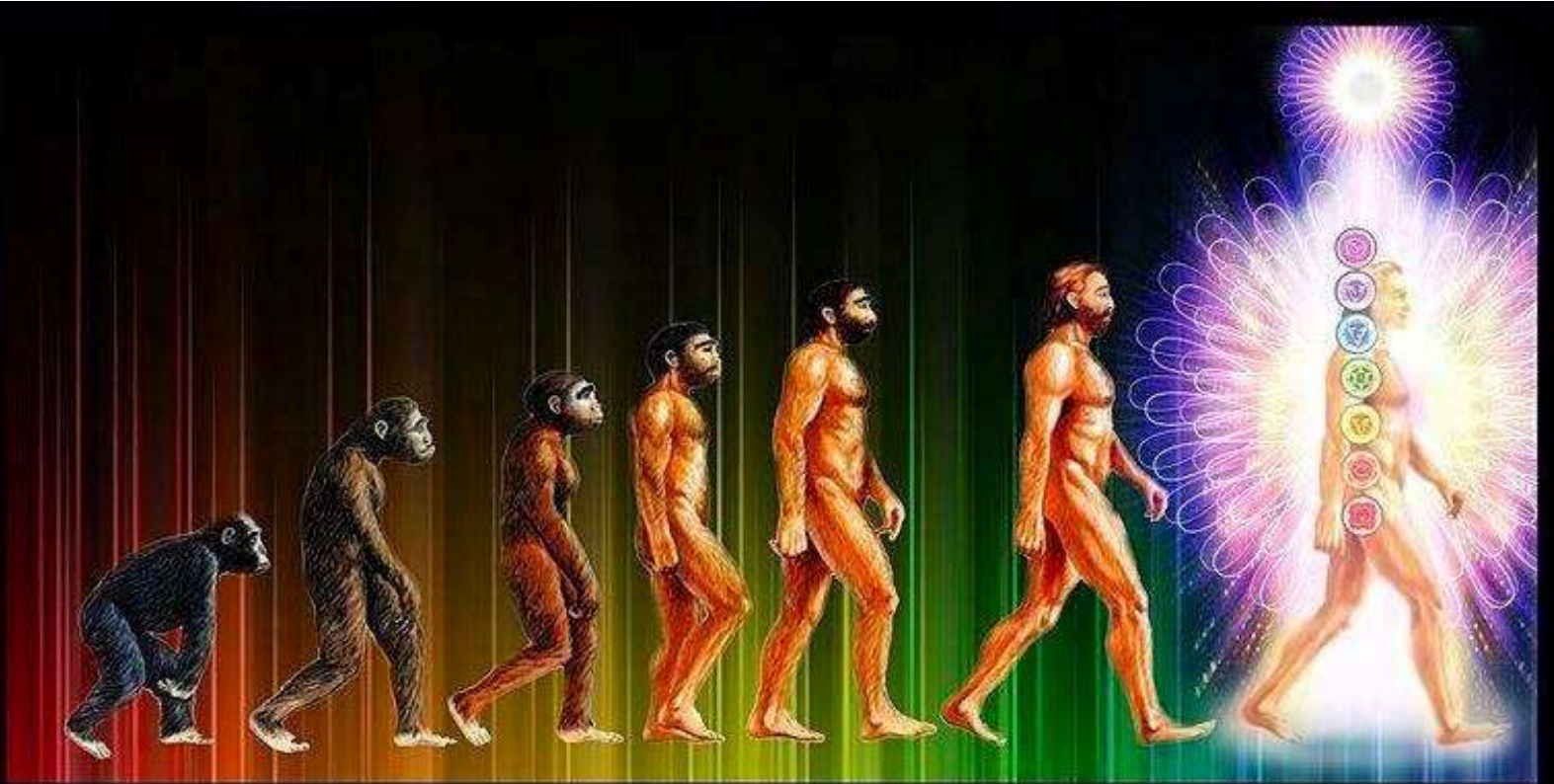
Metamorphosis for the caterpillar is cooperating with its DNA to become what it is destined to be.

Metamorphosis for us is cooperating with our spiritual DNA to become what we are destined to be.



Maybe this is how it would look if we had some butterfly DNA . . .





Physical evolution prepares us for spiritual evolution



Spiritual evolution prepares us to become
grown up divine children of God.

With our divine-human DNA, what will grown-up divine children of God look like? Here's an answer:

My dear friends,
now we are God's children,
but it has not been revealed
what we are to become in the future.
We know that when it comes to light,
we shall be like God.

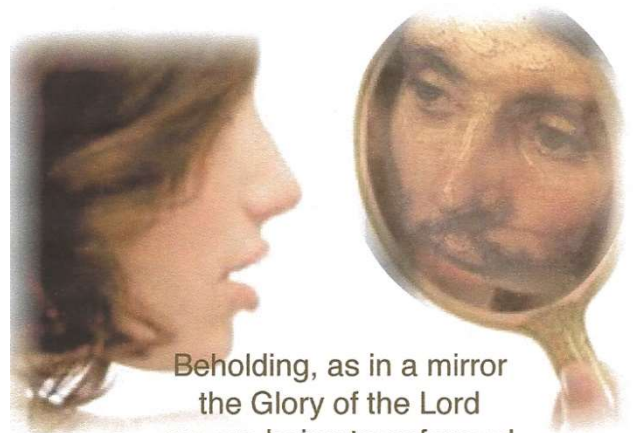
1 John 3:2

In the meantime, followers of Jesus *do* know what our destined spiritual evolution looks like in this life. We know because Jesus was the breakthrough face of God in the human dimension for Christians and we are evolving **to be like Jesus.**

Here are some attempts to convey the idea of our growing up to look like Jesus. *Of course the idea is not to look like Jesus physically but spirituality –*



fully human and fully divine. But you get the idea. Try metaphoric and symbolic viewing now.



Beholding, as in a mirror
the Glory of the Lord
we are being transformed
into the same image - from glory to glory,
even as from the Lord, the Holy Spirit!
II Corinthians 3:18

How does this spiritual evolution work for Christians?
Here's the plan according to Jesus:

"Whoever drinks from my mouth
will become like me, and I
will become like that one."

(Gospel of Thomas 108)



Emmaus by Janet Gerloff (One of favorite images in suggesting two companions in physical bodies and Jesus in his spiritual body.)

HANGING AROUND JESUS MEANS WE START TO LOOK LIKE EACH OTHER!



Jesus has continued to be with us down through the ages and into today in his spiritual body presence.

Do you resonate with any of the following images of friendship with Jesus?



















