

LENT SERMONS: A Four-part series on “Practicing the Presence of God”

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Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13, Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Depth Psychology Temperament preferences...Intuition, Sensation. Thinking, Feeling

What to do if you are a Thinking type in preference? After age 50, we should be integrating all of them, even if we want to ignore our least favorite. But for a personal spiritual Practice of the Presence of God, there is a method that each type will PREFER to use. There have been many writings and tests developed, beloved of Human Resource professionals, that can be used to fine one’s own Preference type. But looking at these 4 Spiritual Practices we will look at in Lent may help us to find our own, best-fitting favorite.

The Rev. Pauli Murray on the argument for segregated education, the doctrine of “Separate, but Equal”. An example of the **Thinking** Preference, her many writings would show this. (Wikipedia’s entry has 10 pages just to list the titles!). She was skilled at thinking about things, issues & people. The idea that school resources for African-Americans were just as good as for white students, that they were equal in worth and usefulness was the rule of the day. But Rev. Murray saw the illogic in even having that argument. Instead, she argues from outside the box. What is the reason for “separate”? Why is that even a thought. Why does that even exist as an idea? Who thought of that? Who thinks like that? Why?

Until Civil Rights legislation, this idea was never even brought up!

This is what the Thinking types do; they analyze and get us the questions that have the answers.

This is what Joshua was doing. He was getting back to the backstory and explaining to the folk crossing the border into the Promised land what needed to happen. This is what the Jews did when they settled into the Promised Land of Israel. They saw the broken pictographs on the Egyptian hieroglyphic walls and found a better way. They wrote their history of God down. They read it, learned it memorized it, referred to it, argued about it.

Writing can become hearing and reading and analyzing becomes a revelation of the living personal relationship with God.

This is what Jesus did when confronting the Devil. The backstory. ‘You know the Scriptures as well as I do, and No way. This is not going to happen!’

Lectio Divinia. The answer for the Thinking Preference. Read it, get the back story—the history, ask questions, get answers...from scholars, from friends, from people you know who carefrom God. The Jews used these Psalms we read in Lent to help them survive the gas chambers. Now Zelensky, in Ukraine, is asking the Jewish ambassador on behalf of their shared heritage, to consider these Psalms, which we shall read for the next five weeks to see how God intervenes, even with Christ on the Cross to be “help in time of trouble?”. It never goes away! Amen? Amen.