

# The Divine Dance

Edwina Gateley, *Silent Presence*

What is your image of God?

- Theological
- Operative

God is being itself—not an object

God is the unhindered flow of love in relationship; we are a vibrant part of that flow

Two metaphors: Breath (Ruah) & Dance (Perichoresis)

We are invited into the experience of this flow of energetic love—to live the life of vulnerable communion

Sin is anything that blocks this flow of love, Spirit

- Refuses mutuality, relationship
- Negativity in any form, resistance

Our work is to allow this flow of love through us

This is our true suffering—giving up our autonomy for the sake of communion

In God there is perfect harmony between autonomy of persons and divine community

This mystery of God is a participative knowledge not an analytical one: full participation in God—loving and suffering

Catherine of Siena: The abyss of love, which enfolds me, is nothing but mercy

Allowing love to flow through us: surrendering, trusting, yielding—mystical language

Life of faith—resting, floating in God—enjoying God

Trust that you are being guided: God is like a Force field—we are in it! (story of fish in water)

Two ways to breakthrough into a new experience (a different type of knowing)

1. Awe and wonder (drawing upwards)
2. Suffering (drawing downwards)

Material and spiritual reality are joined together in Christ and in us

God—perfect giving and receiving

- God for us: Creator-gaze of love given
- God alongside us: Jesus-gaze of love received
- God within us: Spirit-gaze of love returned

Divine pattern—loss and renewal, light and darkness, death and resurrection: accept it, don't fight it!

God loves you perfectly—flow is constant and total—does not change because of your actions

We are to trust this love, believe it and surrender to it—God is for you, on your side!

God will use everything to get you into the dance

Catherine LaCugna: The very nature of God is to seek out the deepest possible communion and friendship with every last creature on earth

William Stafford, *The Way It Is*