



## **Spiritual Connection**

by Clara Carter

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We all are connected by the spirit of life that God breathed into us the moment we were conceived in physical form. Because of this connection, we are as one but individually we are a unique creation of God's image, blessed with an abundance of gifts that is expressed as love, kindness, charity, compassion, hope, faith, talents, skills, and beauty to the best of each one's ability or willingness utilize these gifts. The list of spiritual goodness is limitless and is as varied as the flowers that grow wild in the field or cultivated in a garden. Each blossom has it's own special fragrance and color just like we each have our own racial ethnicity that distinguish us culturally.



*"The Journey of the Magi"* by James Tissot, 1894

We are perfectly human but not perfect. God, our Creator knows all and sees everything, therefore He is the perfect Spiritual being. Our Creator loves us so much that He gave to us the ability to choose our paths daily. We can pray blessings upon our lives, or worry incessantly, complaining about situations we cannot control.

When we stray from the paths of righteousness, God nudges us back onto the path again and again, sometimes gently. God helps us to endure the hard times, even the ones that we created in ignorance of the law of life that all actions have consequences whether good or unpleasant. Through God's unconditional love, unending mercies, and forgiveness, we are blessed with many chances to choose the gift of eternal life.

God sent his only son, Jesus into the world to redeem everyone from the shame and condemnation of sin wrought upon us due to the disobedience exhibited in the Garden of Eden many years ago. Because Jesus died for the sins of the world, we have access to eternal life if we choose to live according to God's plans for us.

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Advent Scripture Reference Lectionary  
[Psalm 21](#); [Genesis 15:1-18](#); [Matthew 12:33-37](#)

Advent Hymn Reflection  
“[See Amid The Winter Snow](#)”  
performed by Fernando Ortega



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