

## This Love

by Todd Clark

As an awakening and a renewing prayerful exercise,  
I tried replacing the pronouns of HE and SHE and HIM and HER  
when I prayed aloud -and also silently- about God.

And in doing so I transformed my prayers and reawakened my faith...  
Because I recognized and saw God for all that I believe God is and does.  
I tried using "THIS LOVE" instead of HE or SHE and HIM or HER  
and it rewired everything.

It strengthened God's presence,  
it enlarged it and opened it up...  
...all the way as big as the all-creating,  
all-knowing and loving "I am", "God is", God.

Not either- or any gender, but indeed all  
forms of gender and more...  
The very presence of God Almighty.  
Almighty God!

God as a precious loving moment.  
...of what we do in our relationships.  
God as how we treat others and know our-  
selves,  
Of how we treat this planet and see our life.  
God as all of eternity, the entire cosmos.  
God as Love. God as life itself.

THIS LOVE... so much larger than a gender- or  
a human-looking body.

THIS LOVE is not so incomplete as to reside in  
the simple image  
of an old, bearded man on some splendid  
throne

balanced on the edge of a perpetually floating cumulous cloud.



Indeed, GOD is more than just a HE or a SHE, a THEY, or a HIM, or HERS...  
while at the same time,  
GOD...THIS LOVE embraces, expresses and encompasses all of those...  
and so much more!

GOD is THIS LOVE.  
THIS LOVE is GOD.

THIS LOVE that never waivers and does not diminish.  
Oh, my God...so precious and peaceful, so powerful and real!  
THIS LOVE is God: creator, mother, father, healer,  
companion, partner, and lover.

God is THIS LOVE.  
A loving way of being... for us to learn and to share.  
THIS LOVE is God.

Love as a foundation for us to grow by and live for.  
Yes, my God!  
THIS LOVE..  
is all you need.

And so let us pray:

*“When you can feel joy in being aware of,  
and in loving the mystery of God’s Blessings,  
know that THIS LOVE is all that you need.  
When there is despair and sadness and the day feels overwhelming,  
God will bring healing and THIS LOVE  
will endure in the midst of any pain or grief.  
Look for God at the core of your being.  
THIS LOVE is the essence of what we yearn to be.  
God is how we want to live fulfilling and blessed lives.  
No matter what, THIS LOVE will strengthen you, carry you and lift you up.  
God made you to be who you have been and who you can become.  
God knows you and loves you for who you are right now  
as you live out THIS LOVE in your life.  
THIS LOVE will always heal and strengthen you.” AMEN*