

When God wants to be present in our consciousness, as he sometimes does, no way can we escape (Ps.139). When we want him present in our consciousness and, visibly, in the surround, no way can we produce his presence (Ps.22 and Jesus' Cry of Dereliction; Ps.42f except intrusive vs.8). On the diagram, the first situation is "A-A" ambivalence, in the mentioned Psalm. The second situation is "C." For meditation, the diagram is for use in the present: one might use it for the past (as Jacob's "and I didn't know" God was present) or for the future (e.g., "Maranatha"). Set aside also the metaphysics--dimensions of presence, reality/illusion; but include ambivalences.

PROSE READING OF THE DIAGRAM: God is present, and I am conscious of and affirm his presence ("A") or want to escape it ("-A"). God is present, and I am unconscious of his presence and like it this way ("B"), or yearn for consciousness of his presence ("-B"). God is absent, and I am conscious of his absence and want him to remain absent, stay away ("C"), or want him to be present--in Ps.84, want to be present to him ("-C"). God is absent, and I am unconscious of his absence, so neither want ("D") nor don't want ("-D") his presence.

SOME MEDITATION/PRAYER EXERCISES:

1. Within this range of possibilities, including compounds and ambivalences, where I I right here and now? (Use the rest of this page to write your response.)
2. As I look back over the whole of my life, what are my sharpest memories of each of the eight basic experiences? (Use page two, over, to write your responses.)
3. Reflect on the horizontal of exercise #2: your parallel experiences with people.
4. Reflect on social implications (e.g., structures that make for intimacy/alienation).
5. Reflect on cultural implications (e.g., Buber's THE ECLIPSE OF GOD).

		GOD IS			
		PRESENT	ABSENT		
-A	I AM CONSCIOUS THAT	A	C	-C	
-B	I AM UNCONSCIOUS THAT	B	D	-D	