

AWAKENING TO MIRACLES WITH PADRE PIO

LESSON TWO: Clearing Doubt, Fear, and Burdens of Conscience

Padre Pio was an extraordinary human being. His intuitive, higher perception was off the charts; he experienced spiritual states of rapture on a daily basis; and blessings from on high flowed through him leading to miracles, including numerous spontaneous, unexplainable healings. He regularly engaged in two way conversations with Jesus, Mary, Archangel Michael, and his own guardian angel. And he famously bore the stigmata -- the wounds of Christ.

The spiritual gifts Padre Pio possessed would have marked him as a great spiritual master in any culture or philosophical setting. But no one grows up in a vacuum, and his particular spiritual and religious context was 20th Century Catholicism. He was a great spiritual master sent to Earth to incarnate as a Capuchin friar and priest.

To be sure, he stood out among his peers. Catholic priests do not generally go about performing miracles like Padre Pio did, they can't normally read people's souls as he could, and they don't bear the physical signs of the stigmata of Christ as he did throughout most of his life.

But though he was a uniquely gifted and unusual man, his spiritual lineage, religion, and belief system was Roman Catholic, the prevalent faith of his homeland, and he embraced it full heartedly. He respected the rules and decrees sent down from the Holy See, and never questioned the Vatican's authority, even when they unfairly persecuted him as a fraud. (Thirty-four years after he passed on, Padre Pio was canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II, as Saint Pio of Pietrelcina.)

Padre Pio firmly believed weekly Confession was very important, and compared it to dusting a room. Pilgrims flocked by the hundred and thousands to San Giovanni Rotondo, the small village where Our Lady of Grace Capuchin Friary was located, to attend Padre Pio's Mass, and receive his confession.

Padre Pio was so in tune with the souls of his faithful that he often began confession by telling the receiver what his or her sins were, rather than the other way around. They knew that nothing was hidden from him, and that the best way to go into confession with Padre Pio was to be completely honest. In turn he would offer them absolution, lift the weight from their hearts, and clear the clouds of negativity, fear, and doubt that hung over them. People left Padre Pio's confession feeling dynamically renewed and spiritual altered.

But one does not have to be Catholic and go to Confession to receive a spiritual healing, clearing, or blessing, and gain the benefits. It only requires an honest, open heart, and a sincere desire to connect with the Divine, the spiritual aspect of our

higher consciousness. And it definitely helps to have “friends in high places” like Padre Pio, to help make the connection and bring the blessings through. There are many great spiritual beings who serve humanity from above, who can be called upon to serve in this way. Padre Pio is a powerful example of one such being, and because he so recently walked the Earth and we know so much about his life, in some ways he can feel especially accessible to us. After all, he was a human being just like we are, we know he was imperfect as we all are, and we know that he faced challenges, as we all do.

Padre Pio was a wise, compassionate and caring father to his spiritual children, and he continues to offer his love and blessings in much the same way, albeit from above. Though his mission was primarily in service to those of the Catholic faith when he was alive, the realm in which he now exists knows no boundaries and observes no dogma. Anyone who approaches Padre Pio openly can receive what he offers.

Morning Meditation #2

This week’s morning guided meditation is about clearing and releasing with the help of Padre Pio. There may be some similarities in the purpose of this exercise to confession, but be open to experiences that defy definition of any kind. Gifts from the spiritual world can transcend physical reality, along with all of our self-imposed definitions and limitations. So, allow nothing to limit your experience, and open to the unexpected.

Evening Meditation

Continue with this week’s evening meditation.