

## Living the Truth

Gurudev wants us to attain the goal of life, God-realization. Realize means to make real. This seemingly provides us with a real difficulty because the scriptures tell us that God is both unknowable and unthinkable. He is also eternal; He doesn't come and go. So what we have to make real is something that is unknowable, unthinkable, but is fully present here and now. This seems to be an unattainable challenge.

In his book, *Ponder These Truths*, Pūjya Swāmī Chidānanda has a talk titled "Connect Yourself with God." In it he says, "Do it by any means—by meditation, repetition of God's name, enquiry, worship—but by any means do it." In other words, if we want to make real That which is unknowable, ungraspable, unthinkable, but is ever present, then we have to connect ourselves with God.

This is seemingly impossible because the only thing we can connect ourselves with is an experience—an experience of peace, an experience of I am, an experience of love, none of which can be the God that is unknowable, is always present and never changes. However, the only way to the God that we are seeking is through a God that we can experience. The challenge is first to have experiences and then secondly, to realize that no experience is the ultimate. It is simply what God is shining forth in our consciousness to encourage us and to point the way.

What finally is the way? Lord Kṛṣṇa tells us to abandon all our ways and to take refuge in Him alone. And who is He alone? He is all there is here and now. He is that which we cannot grasp and everything that is, including our existence here and now. Our senses and our mind tell us that it cannot be so, just as when we look at the earth the senses will tell us that the earth is flat, not round, and just as when we look at the sky, we see blue, even though our intellects know that the earth is round and there is no blue in the sky.

Similarly, our intellect, our understanding, finally comes to believe the scriptures, believe the experiences that God has shone forth, believe the *guru-s* when they declare that God alone is and we are That. Any proof that the senses or mind receive comes and goes, but the intellect can know that it is true and be determined to live life on that basis. If we summarize Pūjya Swāmī Chidānandajī's teachings to us it is simply, you are Divine, know this

truth—which finally we can only do through the intellect—and live in its light, which we do through faith in what the intellect is convinced of.

We have read the scriptures, we have listened to the *guru*, we have had experiences that confirm what they say. Now it is up to us to believe them, to affirm the truth and to prove our belief by betting our life on it, by living in the light of that truth.