



Love Is the Skin of Knowing

Reflecting the glow of recovery from Starlight at Tamassee

By Jon Holland, CEO of Tamassee DAR School



In William Paul Young's novel, *The Shack*, the protagonist Mack meets the personification of God's wisdom, Sophia. Early in their dialogue, they discuss Mack's children and the nature of love. Sophia says to Mack, "So many believe that it is love that grows, but it is the *knowing* that grows and love simply expands to contain it. Love is just the skin of knowing."

As a father to four children, I have experienced the wisdom of these words. With each of my children, they brought along the capacity to love them uniquely, and as they grew and as I came to know them individually, so my love for each grew. This has also been my experience in marriage and in friendship. The better I know my wife, the more intimate our relationship becomes, the more deeply I love her. The longer and more fully I share life with my closest friends, the stronger our connection becomes. The knowing grows, and the love expands to fill it.

In 12 Step fellowships, we talk about coming “to believe in a Power greater than ourselves” and “turning our life and will over to the care of God.” This begs a series of questions. Do I believe God is powerful enough to help me? Is he capable and wise enough to guide my life better than I have? Does he really love me? Does he care enough for me to be involved in the daily struggles of my life and my fight to overcome addiction? Does he want to empower me to find freedom?

These questions all flow from one central issue. Do I know God? How well do I know him? How does my knowing God grow to include confidence in his power and care for me? If he is really all powerful and all caring and always with me, then my love for God and trust in him with grow as I experience his power and care day by day. In other words, it’s all about relationship.



This reality makes the Triune God of Christian faith so overwhelmingly beautiful. The Father, Son, and Spirit are eternal relationships of love, who in Jesus of Nazareth took on our skin to both know us fully and to redeem us completely. Their creative power and Jesus’ incarnational care means they know us, and we are invited to know them as the one God of Trinitarian relationship. As we know them more fully, then our love for God grows and so does our trust in their power to heal and their wisdom to guide.

At Starlight at Tamasee, we believe in the power and care of the Trinity, and we offer this relational knowing and this love to the families we serve. It is quite simply life changing. To learn more about Starlight, visit www.starlight.tdarschool.org, or contact us at starlight@tdarschool.org or 864-944-1390. If your church or civic group is interested in a presentation on recovery, contact Jon Holland at jholland@tdarschool.org.

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MIRACLES AWAIT AT TAMASSEE