

Part 1, Paper 1, The Universal Father, Divine Counselor

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Universal Father, God's personality, divine spark, thought adjuster, spiritual journey, personal transformation, moral growth, infinite God, human connection, cosmic dance, free will, suffering and growth, inner wisdom, divine guidance, cosmic drama

SPEAKERS

Sarah, John

S Sarah 00:00
All right, let's dive into a big one, maybe the biggest one, who is God, yeah, no

J John 00:06
small topic, man,

S Sarah 00:07
we've got a really fascinating lens for this deep dive, the Urantia Book, specifically focusing on paper one the Universal Father, right, to try to unpack its unique and I'll be honest, sometimes mind boggling take on God.

J John 00:20
Yeah, it's a dense text. It's dense, but it's intriguing. Oh, absolutely. And I think what we're gonna try to do today is kind of bridge that gap between the almost incomprehensible vastness of God, as described in the Urantia Book, yeah, and that very human longing that we have to connect with something greater than ourselves on a personal level,

S Sarah 00:41
right from the get go, they throw around these terms, like first source and center, which just screams epic scale. Oh, absolutely. But then they throw this curveball. At least it was a curveball for me when I first read it. where they talk about God having many names throughout

the universe. Imagine that beings on a distant planet looking at the same, I don't know cosmic force and calling it something completely different based on their experiences and perceptions, right? What do you what do you make of that?

J John 01:10

Well, I think it's a really great example of how the Urantia Book really emphasizes that while God is this consistent, okay, unified being our limited perception shapes how we understand him. Okay, you know, it's like if we're trying to describe a magnificent, multifaceted jewel, okay, you know, my description of that jewel is going to be very different based on what facet of that jewel I'm looking at. So

S Sarah 01:35

it's not that God is changing. It's that we only have the capacity to grasp these little fragments of who God is exactly,

J John 01:42

yeah, okay. And here's the kicker, despite this vastness, this incomprehensibility, the Urantia Book is adamant that God is a person, okay, not a force, not an idea, a person. See, that's

S Sarah 01:56

when my brain starts to short circuit a little bit, sure, because how can something be infinite and also have a personality? Right? Those two ideas just feel fundamentally incompatible to me. Yeah, and

J John 02:07

it's a very natural reaction to have, I think, okay, in fact, you know, the text even describes beings of intelligence far beyond our own as being unable to fully grasp the concept of God's personality. Really, they call it a super personality, which, honestly, I don't know that that makes it any easier to understand. No, it sounds cool. It does. It has a good ring to it, but it

S Sarah 02:27

also, it also sounds like, you know, straight out of a comic book, you know, right? But I kind of appreciate that even these incredibly advanced beings are admitting they don't have it all figured out. It makes me feel a little bit better about my own confusion,

J John 02:43

and that's exactly the point that the Urantia Book is trying to make. Is that as humans, we're going to struggle with this. Okay, our minds simply aren't equipped to grasp the infinite, okay, but what's interesting is that the text warns against dismissing God's personality outright, because then

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Sarah 03:01

where does that leave us? Like? Are we left with just this random, meaningless universe, right? Right? Or maybe the idea that everything is God and we're all just these little pieces of this giant blob? Neither of those options seem particularly appealing,

J

John 03:16

no, and they kind of both strip us of our individuality and our purpose, which I think is something that the Urantia Book, this is a lot of importance on, okay, but here's the fascinating part. The text suggests that we can begin to understand God's personality, not just through intellect, but through moral and spiritual growth, by aligning ourselves with God's will.

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Sarah 03:39

So it's more about action than just belief, I think. So yeah, we have to actually live in a way that brings us closer to understanding God. Yeah, that's that's very different, a different take, yeah, than what I'm than what I'm used to. And this brings us to maybe the most mind blowing concept in the around you book, which is that a fragment of God literally resides within each and every one of us. It's

J

John 04:02

one of the most radical. It's a lot it's radical, but it's also, I think, very hopeful. One of the hopeful ideas in the text, yeah, and our bodies are even described as temples that are literally designed to house this Divine Presence. I can

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Sarah 04:16

already hear the listeners being like, hold on, did they just say we have a piece of God inside us? Right? Right? That's a big claim, even for a text as bold as this one, for sure. So how does, how does the Urantia Book explain that? What does it mean to have a fragment of God living within us?

J

John 04:33

Well, this is where the concept of the thought adjuster comes in. In the Urantia Book, the thought adjuster is a fragment of God's Spirit, okay, that is sent to dwell within us and guide us on our spiritual journey.

S Sarah 04:43

So it's not so it's not about us possessing God or becoming these like mini deities ourselves. No, never. It's more like we've been given this like incredible gift, this direct line to the Divine, and it's up to us to choose. Whether or not we actually want to tap into it. Yeah,

J John 05:01

you've hit the nail on the hill. Okay? It's about a relationship, okay, a partnership even between our human selves, yeah, and this divine spark within us

S Sarah 05:10

that makes a lot more sense than us suddenly becoming all powerful, right?

J John 05:13

Yeah, yeah, that would be a lot to handle, I think. And

S Sarah 05:17

you know what? This actually ties back to what we were discussing earlier about experiencing God. I mean, what could be more direct, more experiential than having this fragment of the Divine living within us, right?

J John 05:31

And that experience, that connection, is what the Urantia Book sees as really crucial to understanding God's personality. Okay? It's less about dogma, it's more about personal transformation. But I can also

S Sarah 05:43

see how for someone who doesn't subscribe to a specific religion or belief system, this might sound a bit out there. Where's the hard evidence? Can you really blame someone for being skeptical when you're talking about God fragments and inner divinity?

J John 05:58

Oh, absolutely not. Yeah. And interestingly, the Urantia Book acknowledges that it doesn't shy away from the fact that you can't scientifically prove God. Instead, it points to personal

experience as the ultimate validation. It's about recognizing something within yourself, a sense of wonder, a yearning for connection, a deep seated intuition that resonates with the idea of a loving and personal God. So

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Sarah 06:23

it's less about convincing your brain and more about opening your heart to the possibility exactly

J

John 06:27

the Urantia Book suggests that the more we understand our own personalities, our capacity for love, compassion and forgiveness, the closer we come to understanding God. It's

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Sarah 06:38

almost as if by fully embracing our humanity, we unlock a deeper understanding of the Divine. It's a beautiful way to put it, but that still leaves us with the question of how we actually do that, right? How do we cultivate that connection with the thought adjuster, with that divine spark within Well,

J

John 06:56

according to the Urantia Book, it starts with something surprisingly simple acknowledgement.

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Sarah 07:01

Okay, I'm intrigued. Yeah, tell me more about this acknowledgement. What does that look like in practice?

J

John 07:05

It's about recognizing that this Divine Presence, this thought adjuster, isn't something distant or abstract, okay, it's a part of us always present, always whispering guidance and offering companionship on our journeys. So it's

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Sarah 07:20

like having this like Silent Partner, this inner compass that we often just forget to consult, right? But if we can quiet the noise of the world, if we can really tune in, we can start to hear its subtle guidance precisely.

J John 07:34

Yeah, okay. It's about creating space in our lives for contemplation, for reflection, for connecting with that inner wisdom. Okay, it could be through meditation, okay, prayer, spending time in nature, whatever helps you quiet your mind, yeah, and listen to that still small voice within Okay,

S Sarah 07:53

that makes sense, yeah. But how does that translate into actually doing something, right? I mean, it's one thing to acknowledge the thought adjuster, to feel its presence. But how do we actively participate in that relationship? How do we make choices that align with its guidance? Well?

J John 08:08

And the Urantia Book emphasizes that this alignment isn't about following a rigid set of rules or checking off boxes on some cosmic to do list. Remember, we talked about the names of God reflecting our limited viewpoint, right, right? It's the same with this relationship. So instead

S Sarah 08:24

of approaching it like a rule book, maybe it's more like learning a new dance. Oh, I like that. We're figuring out the steps, yeah, finding our own rhythm, learning to move in harmony with this divine partner within us. What

J John 08:40

a fantastic analogy, yeah, because that's exactly what the Urantia Book suggests. It's a cosmic dance, okay? And just like any dance, it requires both partners to be present, okay, responsive and attuned to each other's movements. Okay? It's about surrendering to the music, trusting your instincts and allowing yourself to be led. Okay, I

S Sarah 08:59

really love that, yeah. But instead of, you know, a waltz or a tango, right, this dance is about aligning our actions with the inherent goodness, yes, woven into the fabric of creation precisely,

J John 09:10

yeah. Remember, the text calls God the first source and center, right? And it emphasizes that everything that flows from that source is inherently good, okay, the dance that is about aligning ourselves with that inherent goodness. okay. expressing it in our own unique ways. So it's not

about

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Sarah 09:31

denying our human experience, the joys and sorrows, the triumphs and failures, but rather finding that divine spark woven through it all. Yes, yes, exactly, even in the midst of darkness or despair, God is present, guiding us towards growth and understanding.

J

John 09:48

That's a really powerful insight, and it speaks to, I think, the often paradoxical nature of the human experience. Yeah, we long for connection, yet we isolate ourselves, right? We crave joy, yet we cling to pain. We see. Purpose, yet we get lost in distractions. Yeah, that's so true. And through it all, yeah, the Urantia Book suggests the thought adjuster, is there, okay, patiently nudging us back towards wholeness, back towards that divine spark within. I can

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Sarah 10:15

already hear some of our listeners pushing back a bit on that idea. Sure, you know, if, if God is all loving and all powerful, why is there so much suffering in the world? Right? Why do bad things happen to good people? Yeah, it feels hard to reconcile those two things. That's a question

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John 10:30

that has challenged theologians and philosophers for centuries, right? And the Urantia Book doesn't pretend to have all the answers, okay? However, it

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Sarah 10:40

does offer, I think, a unique perspective. The text suggests that much of the suffering we experience stems from the Free Will God has granted us. So

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John 10:50

it's not that God is causing our suffering right, or sitting back and watching it happen, right? It's more that we have been given the freedom to make choices exactly, even if those choices sometimes lead us down difficult paths,

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Sarah 11:03

exactly, the Urantia Book doesn't shy away from the reality of pain and suffering in our world. Okay. In fact, it suggests that these experiences, while difficult, can be catalyst for profound

growth and transformation. Okay, think of it like a muscle. It grows stronger through resistance, through being pushed to its limits. So

J John 11:24

instead of asking, Why is this happening to me, right? Maybe the more helpful question is, what is this experience teaching me Exactly? How can I use it as an opportunity for growth?

S Sarah 11:33

That's the heart of it. Okay? It's about finding meaning and purpose, even in the midst of pain and uncertainty. And the Urantia Book assures us that we don't go through these challenges alone. Okay, the thought adjuster is always with us, a constant source of strength, guidance and unwavering love. This is starting

J John 11:52

to feel less like a theological lecture and more like a love letter. Wouldn't you say, right? It's like God is saying, I'm here for you. I see you, I love you, and I'll walk with you through whatever life throws your way, even if it's tough,

S Sarah 12:07

what a beautiful way to put it. And that's precisely the message that the Urantia Book emphasizes. Okay. It's about a love that transcends our limited human understanding, a love

J John 12:16

that embraces our flaws, our mistakes, our moments of doubt and despair. It's

S Sarah 12:21

a love that never gives up on us, even when we give up on ourselves, right? And this love is not just a distant concept, right? We have the potential to tap into it directly, through that divine spark, that thought adjuster residing within each of us, absolutely right. We talked about it conceptually, but we haven't really dug into how that relationship actually works, right, right? How do we tap into this wellspring of love and guidance? How do we make it a tangible force in our lives?

J John 12:51

Well, according to the Urantia Book, it starts with something surprisingly simple, paying attention. Paying attention

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Sarah 12:57

as in being more mindful of our thoughts, our actions, our interactions with the world around us. You've

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John 13:03

got it, but it's more than that. It's about cultivating an awareness of the thought adjusters, presence Okay, in every aspect of our lives.

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Sarah 13:12

So it's about recognizing those moments of intuition, those flashes of insight, those subtle nudges we often ignore right and realizing that they might just be whispers from our divine companion, that's

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John 13:25

precisely it okay. It's about learning to discern the thought adjusters voice amidst the cacophony of our own internal dialog, yay, and the constant demands of the external world and this awareness, this ongoing conversation with our divine partner, is what allows us to make choices that are in harmony with our highest selves, okay, and with the grand, cosmic symphony unfolding all around us, this

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Sarah 13:48

idea aligning ourselves with God's will of moving in harmony with the universe, it's starting to feel less like this distant, spiritual concept, right, and more Like a blueprint for living a more meaningful, fulfilling life here and now,

J

John 14:03

I think that's a beautiful way to frame it, yeah? Because that's what the Urantia Book is ultimately about, okay, bridging that gap between the vastness of the cosmos and the intimacy of our own hearts, right? It's about recognizing that we are not insignificant. Specs, okay, in an indifferent universe, yeah, but rather integral players in a grand cosmic drama, okay, a drama in which each of us has a unique and essential role to play.

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Sarah 14:30

So how do we find that balance? How do we stay grounded in the present moment? Focus on our own personal growth. yeah. while also embracing this vastness of our cosmic potential. It

feels like a lot to juggle.

J John 14:43

That's where the Urantia Book offers, I think, a very reassuring message. It reminds us that we don't have to carry the weight of the entire universe on our shoulders. Okay, we're not expected to be perfect cosmic dancers hitting every beat with flawless precision.

Sarah 14:58

Okay, that's a relief to hear. I was starting to feel a bit overwhelmed, like I needed a cosmic instruction manual just to make a cup of coffee, right?

J John 15:05

But the Urantia Book emphasizes that it's not about striving for some unattainable standard of perfection, okay. It's about showing up okay, with an open heart, yeah, a willingness to learn and a genuine desire to connect with that Divine Presence within

 Sarah 15:21

us. So it's more about progress than perfection, I think so, taking those small, everyday steps right guided by intuition and a growing awareness of the thought adjuster's presence,

J John 15:33

you've got it, okay? It's about making choices that reflect that inherent goodness. The Urantia Book talks about choices rooted in love, compassion, understanding and trusting that those choices, however small they may seem, ripple outward, contributing to something much larger than ourselves.

 Sarah 15:54

That makes me think about all the ways that people find to connect with that divine spark. Some people meditate, some people pray, some people find it in nature, absolutely. Some people find it in acts of service. You know, it's like everyone's finding their own, their own rhythm in this grand, cosmic dance. I love

J John 16:11

that visual. And you know, the Urantia Book actually emphasizes that there's no one right way to connect with God. It's about finding what resonates with your soul, what helps you hear the whispers of your thought adjuster amidst the noise of everyday life. and

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Sarah 16:25

maybe just even being open to the possibility that there is something more, some force, orchestrating this incredible cosmic dance. Sure, that's a step in the right direction.

J

John 16:35

Absolutely curiosity, a sense of wonder, a thirst for knowledge and experience. Yeah, these are all qualities the Urantia Book champions, okay? It's not about having all the answers, right, but about embracing the journey. Yeah, the exploration, yeah, the ever unfolding mystery of it all, because at

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Sarah 16:52

the end of the day, we're all just dancers figuring out the steps, right? Yeah. I like that a lot, trusting our partners, listening to the music and trying to enjoy the dance as best we can.

J

John 17:02

What a beautiful way to sum it up. Yeah, and remember, we're not dancing alone. We have the thought adjuster within guiding our every step. We have each other, yeah, sharing our experiences, right, offering support and encouragement. Well,

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Sarah 17:15

on that note, I think we've given our listeners plenty to ponder today. Indeed, we have so until next time Yes, keep exploring, keep questioning and keep dancing to the rhythm of the cosmos.