

## Here's What Is Wrong

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Our basic thesis is that people in our society are essentially empty. The metaphor is that they are running on spiritual gas tanks which are chronically empty. If you are running on empty, the consequences are innumerable and characterize just about all of our society:

If your soul is chronically empty.....

--You're a sucker for consumerism  
for cheap thrills and entertainment  
for lying politicians

-- You have deep insecurity in your role as parent.

-- The excitement of sex and physical beauty play inordinately central roles in love relationships instead of being experienced as a part of the love relationship.

-- There is general self-doubt about one's capacity for love.

-- You are insensitive to injustice and to the sufferings of others.

-- Your intuitive perception of matters relating to your medical health is impaired.

-- You are not sure of what is good for you and look to strong leaders

Since everyone is scurrying around for meaning, for true satisfaction to fill their emptiness, our economic world is full, not of companions or collaborators in making a comfortable and stable world, but of hucksters and salesmen who mostly know that they are selling snake oil but have no ideas of something better to do. So if many people buy their products, they can label themselves as "successful".

The search for genuine spiritual fulfillment is arduous and often terrifying. Only one goal will do the trick and that is true union with God or with the all, i.e., everything and everyone. However false promises are put forward by religious leaders who are themselves "running on empty" and propose childish images of God which appeal to their own and others' feelings of being lost, confused, incomplete.

The search for genuine spiritual fulfillment is a mysterious and sometimes terrifying path. Our object this morning is to explore with you the exact nature of this fear which we have actually and literally experienced personally.

It is important to emphasize that we are not just talking about concepts but experiences. We have had occasion to walk thru this valley of fear and come out the other side.

That is our subject this morning and we call it the FEAR OF NON-BEING.