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## Wraps Off

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## Wraps Off

Translucent covering for food items and manufactured goods permits us to see the contents. But merely viewing a crunchy power bar or a fine new computer cable does not satisfy hunger or provide for a network connection. What we see is what we **will** receive, but only after removing the wrapping.

Much of creation is wrapped in a clear covering. We can see with our eyes, but until we also observe with our interior senses, we will not have positive experiences of the contents of creation. Wrappers often serve as protective coverings, but they are intended to be temporary, until we encounter fully a fresh morning, a kindly smile, or a new challenge. Even before we take the wraps off, we might have hopeful anticipation, trusting that God always has more for us in everything that exists than merely the first perceptions we receive from our physical senses.

All the wonders, opportunities, and challenges that are provided for us in this world are not just for our observation, but for life. We usually notice at first the outer realities, and through our participation, come to grasp the inner meaning and purpose of a particular part of creation. We might begin by being attracted, and then become engaged in encounters genuinely worth our ongoing involvement.

Doing volunteer service, for example, might interest someone. In our minds, we can view the advantages to be derived from any project that we might consider. But nothing happens until we take off the wraps, and engage persons, new ideas, or perhaps even occasions that are stress-inducing. We cannot know exactly how we will be influenced or affected by assuming a new responsibility or even by taking on a fresh way of thinking about a subject already familiar to us. Nor can we accurately predict the energy we might gain by deliberately acting on a decision instead of only thinking about it.

God is hidden in every aspect of creation, as are the flavors of a candy bar which cannot be tasted until we bite into it. Looking and admiring do not satisfy. But if we fully connect with any reality, even one that is invisible, we will be changed in some way.

No experience leaves us as we were beforehand. As we encounter God in creation, we change. That is why some people choose to keep their distance, since their main concern is to keep everything under their complete control. It is possible for any of us to notice what others

read, but not to investigate for ourselves, or to become aware of others' growth in spirituality, but never to take the wraps off our familiar rituals. We can choose whether or not to experience growth and change, in which God is actively present.

There is such vastness to creation, that no one of us will ever be able to unwrap and experience even a small sample of the realities within us and about us. But we are not isolated individuals; we are all children of one God. Each of us opens some particular treasures, which, rather than enjoying them only for ourselves, we share with others. We learn and appreciate with and also from one another, some of the riches of our experiences.

The hidden contents of creation are mainly available to those who will become involved, not just observers. We are meant to take the wraps off, and to find that God, who is Love, is in all things.