



When the Path Isn't Clear

January often arrives without clear instructions.

The holidays have passed, the calendar has turned, and here in St. George the desert feels especially quiet. The red cliffs hold their stillness. The mornings are cool and quiet. The landscape isn't pushing forward—it's resting, waiting, trusting something unseen is already at work beneath the surface.

As your Spiritual Director, I want to name something that often goes unspoken: **not knowing is not a spiritual failure**. It is a spiritual season.



Many of us step into January feeling pressure to have clarity—to know what's next, to have new goals and feel motivated, to sense forward momentum towards growth. Yet spiritual maturity is not measured by certainty. It is revealed in our willingness to stay present when the path ahead has not yet fully formed.

Ernest Holmes reminds us, “Faith is a mental attitude so poised that it can trust in the good, even when the good has not yet appeared.” That kind of faith doesn't demand answers. It rests in relationship—with Spirit, with Life, with the unfolding nature of the Law.

This last year, I focused on the idea of not having to know it all, or have it all to move forward. I trusted that what I feel is missing will present itself as I need it, not before. The desert teaches this well. In winter, nothing looks busy. Growth is not obvious. And yet, beneath the soil, life is quietly preparing. Roots are strengthening. Seeds are gathering energy. What appears still is not stagnant.

Perhaps this new year is not asking you to move faster or decide to do more. Perhaps it is inviting you to **trust the Presence that already knows the way**, even if you do not.

As a community, we don't walk alone through these uncertain spaces. We pray, meditate, and celebrate on Sundays together. We listen and learn together. We remind one another that clarity is not forced—it emerges when we are ready to receive it.

If your path feels unclear right now, you are not behind. You are not lost. You are standing at a sacred threshold, where Spirit is doing some of its deepest work.

May this month and new year be gentle with you.

May you allow the quiet moments of being in-between.

And may you trust that the next step will reveal itself—right on time.

With love and faith,

Rev. Joe