

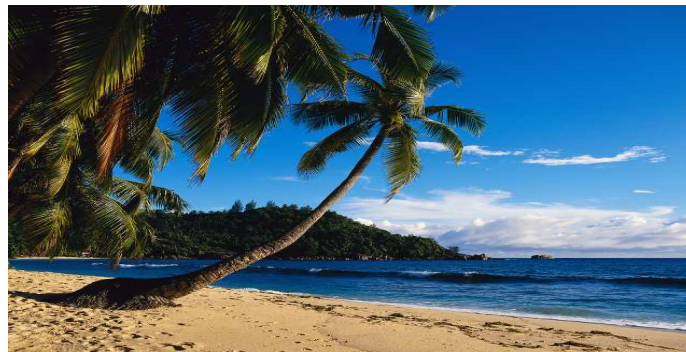
When I considered the similarity between soaking in God's presence and making pickles (last week's Note,) my thoughts drifted into yet another activity engaged in by many – getting a sun tan.

Have you ever enjoyed basking in the sun so as to get a tan? Back in the Dark Ages when I was young, lots of folks enjoyed the challenge of tanning. They would plan the place; they would allot the correct amount of time to the process; and they really soaked in the sun – regularly.

If a person decides to get a tan, he or she anticipates the enhanced beauty she will have after the process takes effect. She doesn't necessarily keep her decision to get a tan a secret, nor does she trumpet it. But that decision sets in motion a number of activities.

First the person can't get a tan in the house - - - where she may have made the decision. She has to get out into the sun. She cannot go into the back yard under the maple tree, because even though the sun is shining, the tree is obstructing the rays from reaching her. She is going to have to expose herself directly to the sun. That is to say, she must actually place herself directly under the influence of the sun..... Oh my, here comes a sermon!

The next time you go to the ocean or to the beach, watch the folks who come to get a tan. I mean to tell you, they come prepared! A sun lover will bring oil to anoint oneself with..... a sun lover will bring a sheet or a towel, and carefully lay it out. That still doesn't make a tan possible if the person hasn't removed barriers between her skin and the sun, namely clothing. So usually they come to the beach (where, by the way, the sand is often a lighter color, thereby reflecting the rays of the sun) with clothing appropriate to absorbing the sun, namely a bathing suit or whatever.



That **still** doesn't give them a tan! Real tanners will then lie down, exposing themselves directly to the transforming rays of the sun. If they are serious about it, they will even turn over once in awhile, so as to tan evenly.

Others may surf, or stroll on the beach, some may gather shells; some may drive their RV's or cars or mopeds on the sandy shores; some play with a Frisbee; some may fish, some take pictures or build sand castles. Tanners soak - - in the sun.

I want to be a soaker. I want to soak in the Son. I have made the decision to divest myself of any personal barriers between my spirit and the Son. I have also decided to remove myself from any situation outside of myself, any social system or set of values that would block the rays of my Beloved Light of the World from impacting me.



I want to be a soaker. I'm going to break the mold of my present hum-drum existence at times. I'm going to "take the roof off" my mediocre spiritual house and invite the Son to come Shine on me.

Holy Jesus, Light of the World, Flaming Fire, Jealous God, come blaze upon your handmaiden; come "nail me" to the floor under your holy presence.

Come Jesus.

I can feel the warmth of the Son. Want to get a tan with me?