



A Shy Hope In The Heart

14 September 2021

When Gary Bouma wrote his book "Australian Soul," he referred to a quote from Australian historian and author Manning Clarke in the introduction. Manning Clarke refers to the Australian psyche or spirit as "a shy hope in the heart." For Bouma, this quote captured his view of Australians' spirituality.

He believes that Australians are nervous of anyone too enthusiastic for, or against, faith and belief. We are as sceptical of the committed Christian as we are of the rabid atheist. There is a belief in the Australian society in God - 79% of people say so, but only 24% believe you need to go to church.

Our spirituality is a shy hope, a quiet personal view that there must be something more to life. We just aren't confident enough to do anything about it.

I would love to encourage you to turn your shy hope into an active search. If there is a God, and I believe wholeheartedly that there is, wouldn't it be wonderful to live in step with our Creator?

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