



EPISODE TITLE: “Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster”

Prophetically Incorrect, Episode 3

Featured Guest: *Frank Schaeffer*

Frank is a survivor of both polio and an evangelical/fundamentalist childhood, an acclaimed novelist of 4 novels including *Portofino* who overcame severe dyslexia, a home-schooled and self-taught documentary movie director, a feature film director and producer of four low budget Hollywood features Frank has described as “pretty terrible.” Of Frank’s writing Jeff Sharlet (*The New Statesman* October 25, 2007) writes, “*Crazy For God*’ is a brilliant book, a portrait of fundamentalism painted in broad strokes with streaks of nuance, the twinned coming-of-age story of Frank and the Christian right.”

Questions:

1. What do you think it meant for Amos to include women in his criticism and prophesy? What overlooked people might he call on if he were speaking in our time?
2. Frank suggests that religious sincerity and piety may be impediments to justice. What do you think that means? What might be an example?
3. What are some ways that being part of a religious community be transformative? What are some of the responsibilities?
4. Is it possible for healthy humans to live in the absence of social support systems? Why or why not? What happens when people try, or are forced, to live outside of community?
5. If we treated our neighbors as if they were Jesus, how would that change our actions? Is it possible that justice might actually flow down like waters and righteousness like and everflowing stream?

Pneuma Divina Scripture: Amos 5:21-27

- ²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
- ²² Even though you offer me your burnt-offerings and grain-offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
- ²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
- ²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
- ²⁵ Did you bring to me sacrifices and offerings the forty years in the wilderness, O house of Israel? ²⁶You shall take up Sakkuth your king, and Kaiwan your star-god, your images that you made for yourselves; ²⁷therefore I will take you into exile beyond Damascus, says the Lord, whose name is the God of hosts.