

# *We Believe in God, Too*

# *Lost in Translation*

“Even while the institutional foundations of African religious life were disrupted, admonishing form of African spirituality was kept alive by individual slaves. Though the exposure of Blacks to their ancestral traditions was in all likelihood fortitude by the occasional appearance of new native Africans among the bond persons, slave culture after the mid eighteenth century reflected its African American experience”

-Jeffrey E. Anderson

Our history has taught us to hate ourselves. To forget who we are. To have no understanding of what it means to truly love and be loved as Black/African American people. As you read upon their experiences, beliefs, and affiliations, journey upon their space of limbo.

## **Image 0**

“We as the people of Christ have no room to judge for it tells us in the bible that we should not be judges or judge. So, I say LOVE people where they are because it says in 1 Peter 4:8 “Above all, love each other deeply, because Love covers a multitude of sins”.

**KaResha Coburn | She/Her/Hers | Ally & Accomplice**

“Having a spiritual connection has changed my life because it has allowed me to look outside of self and be open minded to other ideas and beliefs in life. I feel like I can be trans and be religious/spiritual. They intersect because it goes with who I am as a person and how I choose to live my life”.

**Nazir L. Wattley | He/Him/His | Heterosexual/Trans**

“I am a straight Black male, that is allied and affiliated with the LGBTQIA+ community through friends, co-workers, members of my family, and members of my congregation who identify as Queer”.

**Tyler Coburn | He/Him/His | Ally & Accomplice**



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## **Image 1**

“Having spiritual/religious affiliations has changed my life because it has now shown me that I have the power to create the world, body, health and life I want. It is my canvas. Obviously, we have outside evil forces that affect shit, but believing that my journey and experience here on Earth is mine and allows me to move and live accordingly”. Kristen

**London | She/Her/They | Queer**

“I’ve never been able to stop being Black, or Queer, or Religious so I had to come to a point where I accepted the totality of who I am and that my gift to the world is rooted in my BlackQueerReligious life. These identities are multiplicities in nature instead of contradictory”.

**Lex Dunbar |They/Them/Theirs | Bisexual Queer**

“God is not a who to me, they just feel like more than that. I feel like what God looks like changes based on what I'm needing at the moment. When I need a shoulder to cry on and my faith is the size of a mustard seed, God looks like the lap of my nana ready to run their finger through my hair and make sure I know I'm not alone. When I need correction, God looks like a father figure concerned by my choices and my future. When I feel joy, God looks like an old friend celebrating my joy with me, reassuring me that I deserve every good thing happening”.

**Jas Sherman | She/Her/They | Lesbian**

## **Image 2**

“When I first came out, I was 19 and I was heavily a part of a Baptist Church where the pastor of the church’s daughter just came out to him. It was the first Sunday and he was preaching about the Devil coming in and telling you that you are something you are not. He was deep in his sermon and this week he was going up and down the aisles of the church and off the pulpit. My girlfriend and I were sitting towards the back of the church. He came all the way back to our pew and said “The Devil told you were gay, THE DEVIL IS A LIAR!” He said this as he was looking at us. Everyone in the church gasped and started to whisper and shuffle in their seats. It was not just the public outing of us but how everyone in the church responded. We were pushed off committees, fired from leading the praise dancers and basically pushed out of the church. None of that was Godly to me. God created us perfectly in his image and loves us regardless. To me a true person of God would Never use anyone as an example to reach their daughter. A true person of God would have come up to us after church to make sure we were okay. Everyone in the church avoided us like oil and water. I found it hard to go back to any church after that”.

**Ash Ferguson | She/They/Theirs | Queer**

“I think my blackness intersects with my spiritual background way more than my Queerness does. So many religious groups see being queer as a bad thing, they think it’s wrong. So as a Queer person I find myself making my own rules when it comes to being spiritual”.

**Tyrell Rae | He/She/They | Gay**

## **Image 5**

“Having a spiritual and religious affiliation has given me guidance and hope in life. It has taught me the true meaning of unconditional love and the best way to give and receive that love. Being Spiritual makes me feel connected to all those around me. Religion has given me a purpose and an understanding of life and its obstacles. It gives me stories to relate to and learn from. Being Spiritual has relieved me from fear of life and life after death. Most importantly having a spiritual and religious affiliation has given me hope, hope in myself, for those around me and for my life afterwards”.

**Tumaini “Titi” Mporampora | She/Her/Hers | Ally & Accomplice**