

*Hinsley ZOOM Saturday 18 April 2020
Prayers and quotations for reflection*

St Teresa of Avila - "Let nothing disturb thee; Let nothing dismay thee; All things pass; God never changes. Patience attains all that it strives for. He who has God finds he lacks nothing: God alone suffices."

Isaac Pennington

Give over thine own willing, give over thine own running, give over thine own desire to know or be anything and sink down to the seed which God sows in the heart, and let that grow in thee and be in thee and breathe in thee and act in thee; and thou shalt find by sweet experience that the Lord knows that and loves and owns that, and will lead it to the inheritance of Life, which is its portion (*sometimes translated as destiny*).

Closing Prayer

"May God heal all divisions -- those within my own mind, heart, soul and body, and those between all people and groups -- that we may be one Body in Christ, unified in every way and on every level, and thus manifest the Living Christ by our very lives. Amen."

The Western and Scriptural Models of Spirituality: God, Self and Rational Consciousness

Forsake everything that is yours. Undertake this, and let it cost you everything you can afford. There you will find true peace, and nowhere else. ... Never think too much about what you could do, but about what you could be. ... As we are holy and have being, to that extent we make all works holy, be it eating, sleeping, keeping vigil or whatever it may be. ... What matters is the ground on which the works are built.

Meister Eckhart, "Counsel #4," German Works, cited from *MeEssential Sermons, Commentaries, Treatises, and Defense*, Translation and Introduction by Edmund Colledge, O.S.A. and Bernard McGinn

In Scriptural spirituality we are to become a sacrament of the presence of God

In the last several hundred years priests have rarely been taught about the contemplative dimension of the Gospel or the Christian mystical tradition. The most they could usually find in a university or a seminary was the history of Christian spirituality.

The Western Model of God-outside-of-self describes a relationship that is at odds with the Gospel teaching. Until the beginning of the Second Vatican Council we rarely heard the doctrine that we are in God and that God is in us.

Here are some of the symptoms of the Western Model of Spirituality: We initiate our good efforts and God rewards. Thus, we have an image of God sitting in the bleachers of an arena watching our activities. If they are good, it's thumbs up! If they are not, it's thumbs down.

In the Scriptural Model, grace is present not only in the sacraments in a special way, but inspires our good actions. In the Western Model, we do all the work even though influenced by reflections on Scripture. There is, however, a deep psychological distrust of ourselves. We are just too "bad" and unworthy of God's love for us.

Those who follow the Western Model have no idea what the mystics are talking about, or why people practice methods of meditation to cultivate interior silence and to experience the presence of the Ultimate Reality everywhere and in everything, including ourselves.

If our consciousness is growing, conflicts are resolved, not on the rational level, the level of opposites and duality, but on the non-dual level. Apparent disasters and contradictions are perceived as invitations to move to a higher level of consciousness. There the two are resolved in the light of a higher perspective where they are not contradictory, but complimentary.