

Sixth Letter

by Brother Lawrence

Brother Lawrence encourages a member of the order to persevere in practicing the presence of God, even when it feels difficult, and to serve God in a holy freedom.

Scripture: Psalm 16:8, Philippians 4:6, Colossians 3:2, 1 Thessalonians 5:16, James 4:8

Topics: "Practicing Presence", "Trusting God"

Description

Brother Lawrence emphasizes the importance of practicing the presence of God in every aspect of life, highlighting the peace and security that comes from being constantly connected to God. He encourages perseverance in this practice, even when faced with challenges or distractions, stressing the need to trust in God completely and engage in a continuous exchange of love with Him.

Transcript

To a member of the order who had received from him a book, and to whom he again enlarges on his favourite topic. * Encouragement to persevere.

I HAVE received from Mrs. - the things which you gave her for me. I wonder that you have not given me your thoughts of the little book I sent to you, and which you must have received. Pray set heartily about the practice of it in your old age; it is better late than never.

I cannot imagine how religious persons can live satisfied without the practice of the presence of GOD. For my part I keep myself retired with Him in the depth of centre of my soul as much as I can; and while I am so with Him I fear nothing; but the least turning from Him is insupportable.

This exercise does not much fatigue the body: it is, however, proper to deprive it sometimes, nay often, of many little pleasures which are innocent and lawful: for GOD will not permit that a soul which desires to be devoted entirely to Him should take other pleasures than with Him; that is more than reasonable.

I do not say that therefore we must put any violent constraint upon ourselves. No, we must serve GOD in a holy freedom, we must do our business faithfully, without trouble or disquiet; recalling our mind to GOD mildly and with tranquillity, as often as we find it wandering from Him.

It is, however, necessary to put our whole trust in GOD, laying aside all other cares, and even some particular forms of devotion, though very good in themselves, yet such as one often engages in unreasonably: because those devotions are only means to attain to the end; so when by this exercise of

the presence of GOD we are with Him who is our end, it is then useless to return to the means; but we may continue with Him our commerce of love, persevering in His holy presence: one while by an act of praise, of adoration, or of desire; one while by an act of resignation, or thanksgiving; and in all the manner which our spirit can invent.

Be not discouraged by the repugnance which you may find in it from nature; you must do yourself violence. At the first, one often thinks it lost time; but you must go on, and resolve to persevere in it to death, notwithstanding all the difficulties that may occur. I recommend myself to the prayers of your holy society, and yours in particular. I am yours in our LORD.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/brother-lawrence/sixth-letter/>

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