

Humbly Imitate Christ and Submit Reason to Holy Faith

by Thomas a Kempis

To approach the Sacrament, we must submit our reason to holy faith and walk in humility and sincerity.

Scripture: Psalm 25:9, Proverbs 3:5, 1 Corinthians 1:25, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6

Topics: "Faith And Humility", "Submission To God"

Description

Thomas a Kempis preaches about the importance of faith, humility, and sincere devotion when approaching the Sacrament, warning against excessive curiosity and vain examination that can lead to doubt. He emphasizes the need to trust in God's power and not rely solely on human understanding, urging believers to submit to God with humble reason and sincere faith. Kempis highlights the significance of simplicity, obedience to God's commandments, and the avoidance of unnecessary disputes that can hinder one's devotion. He encourages believers to resist the temptations of the enemy, to believe in the words of God and His saints, and to approach the Sacrament with unwavering faith and reverence.

Transcript

THE VOICE OF CHRIST

BEWARE of curious and vain examination of this most profound Sacrament, if you do not wish to be plunged into the depths of doubt. He who scrutinizes its majesty too closely will be overwhelmed by its glory.

God can do more than man can understand. A pious and humble search for truth He will allow, a search that is ever ready to learn and that seeks to walk in the reasonable doctrine of the fathers.

Blest is the simplicity that leaves the difficult way of dispute and goes forward on the level, firm path of God's commandments. Many have lost devotion because they wished to search into things beyond them.

Faith is required of you, and a sincere life, not a lofty intellect nor a delving into the mysteries of God. If you neither know nor understand things beneath you, how can you comprehend what is above you? Submit yourself to God and humble reason to faith, and the light of understanding will be given you so far as it is good and necessary for you. Some are gravely tempted concerning faith and the Sacrament but this disturbance is not laid to them but to the enemy.

Be not disturbed, dispute not in your mind, answer not the doubts sent by the devil, but believe the words of God, believe His saints and prophets and the evil enemy will flee from you. It is often very profitable for the servant of God to suffer such things. For Satan does not tempt unbelievers and sinners whom he already holds securely, but in many ways he does tempt and trouble the faithful servant.

Go forward, then, with sincere and unflinching faith, and with humble reverence approach this Sacrament. Whatever you cannot understand commit to the security of the all-powerful God, Who does not deceive you. The man, however, who trusts in himself is deceived. God walks with sincere men, reveals Himself to humble men, enlightens the understanding of pure minds, and hides His grace from the curious and the proud.

Human reason is weak and can be deceived. True faith, however, cannot be deceived. All reason and natural science ought to come after faith, not go before it, nor oppose it. For in this most holy and supremely excellent Sacrament, faith and love take precedence and work in a hidden manner.

God, eternal, incomprehensible, and infinitely powerful, does great and inscrutable things in heaven and on earth, and there is no searching into His marvelous works. If all the works of God were such that human reason could easily grasp them, they would not be called wonderful or beyond the power of words to tell.

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