

Yielding to Love

A Praying Heart



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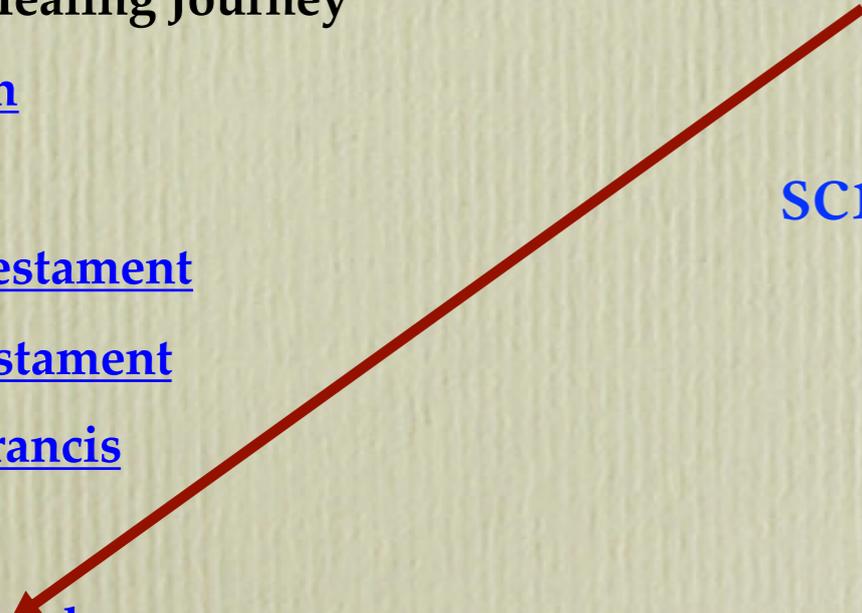
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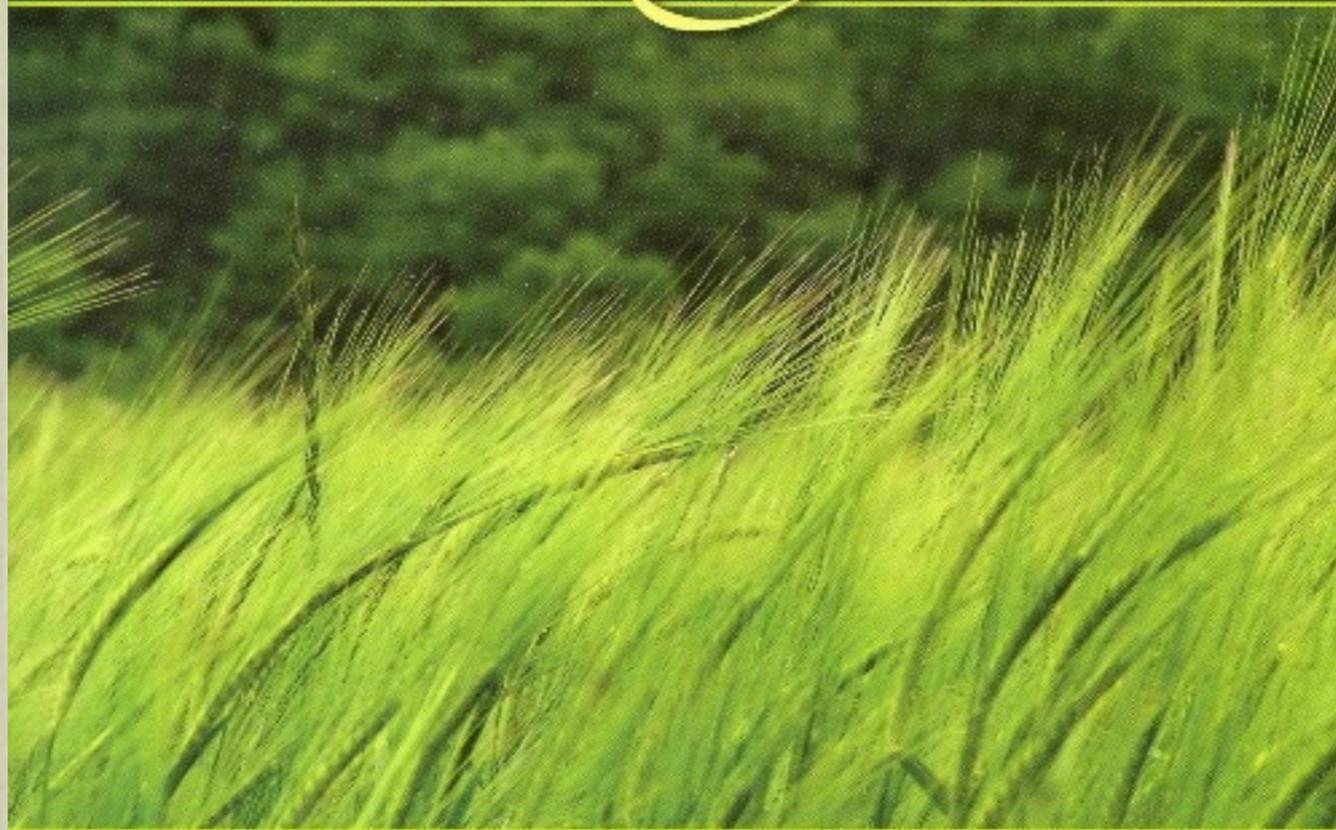
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Yielding *TO LOVE*



Learning to follow our yearning
for deeper communion with God

Michael Fallon MSC

Prayer

We are called to 'love God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength'(Mark 12:30, quoting Deuteronomy 6:5)

While the journey of prayer encompasses every dimension of our lives, the interior dimension is the key - the inner journey to our own heart, and so to the Heart of God: the journey of prayer in which heart speaks to heart.

What is Prayer?

Therese of Lisieux:

“Prayer is a surge of the heart;
a simple look turned towards God,
a cry of recognition and love,
embracing both trial and joy.”

Teresa of Avila:

“Prayer is an intimate sharing between friends ...
taking time frequently to be alone
with we One who we know loves us.”

“Look at him. He never takers his eyes off you.”

John of the Cross:

“The language God hears best is silent love.”

1John 1:1-4

‘We declare to you what was from the beginning,
what we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes,
what we have looked at and touched with our hands,
concerning the word of life —

this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it,
and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father
and was revealed to us —

we declare to you what we have seen and heard
so that you also may have communion with us; and truly
our communion is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.

We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.’

‘I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.’(Galatians 2:20).

‘All of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit’(2Corinthians 3:18).

An Obedient (Listening) Heart

‘My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work’(John 4:34).

‘I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me’

‘The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what is pleasing to him’(John 8:28-29).

‘Want only what God wants’(Teresa Interior Castle II.1.7).

‘The soul remains under his touch like a lyre, and all His gifts to it are like so many strings which vibrate to sing, day and night, the praise of His glory’(Elizabeth of the Trinity, Last Retreat).

A Free Heart

John of the Cross (Ascent I.II.4) reminds us
that a bird cannot fly if its leg is tied,
however thin the thread that secures it.
Even the slightest attachment must be broken.

Father Pedro Arrupé SJ

More than ever, I now find myself in the hands of God.

This is what I have wanted all my life, from my youth.

And this is still what I want.

But now there is a difference;

the initiative is entirely with God.

It is indeed a profound spiritual experience

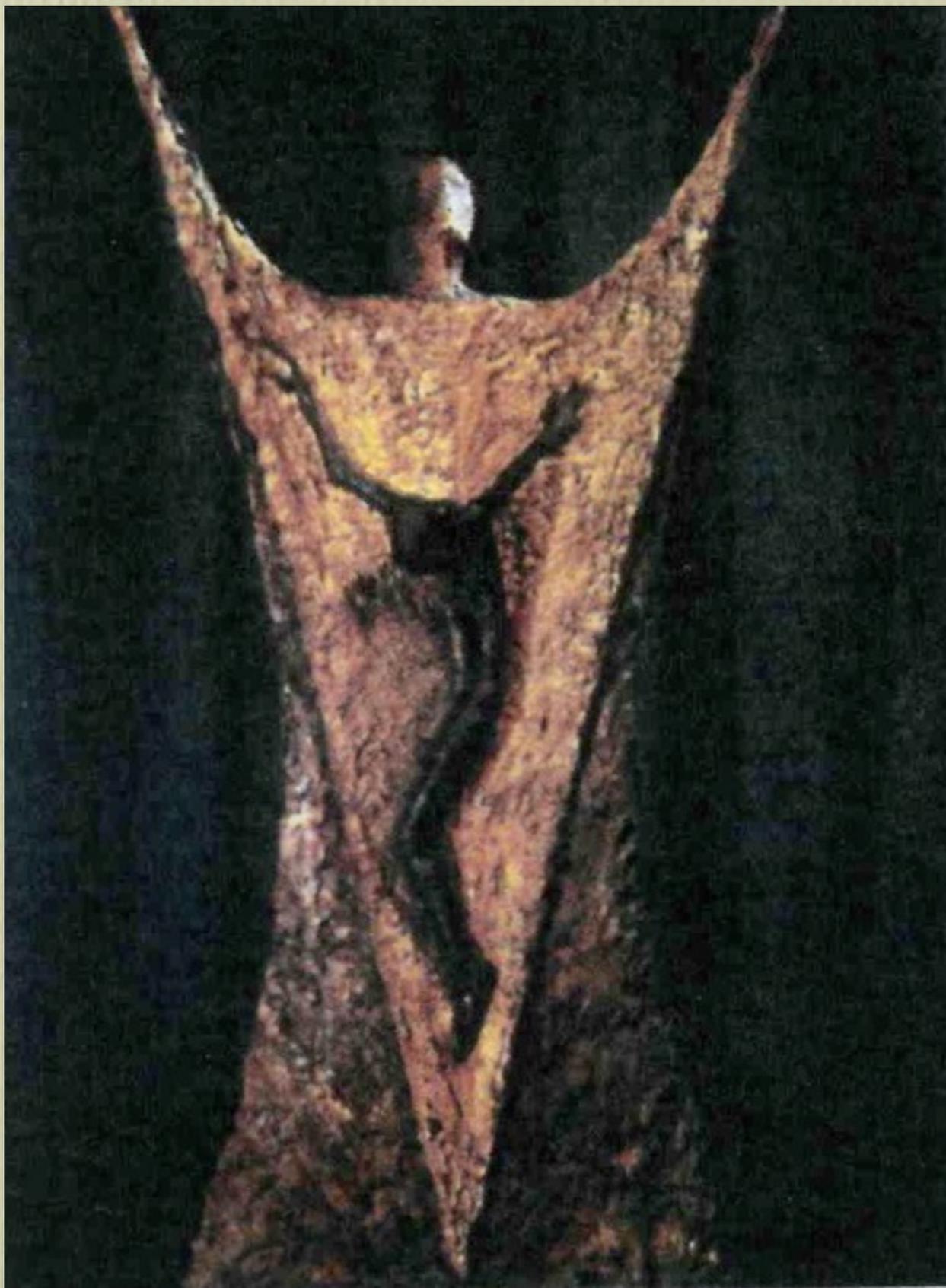
to know and feel myself so totally in his hands,

in the hands of this God who has taken hold of me.



A Loving Heart

- ‘Love one another as I have loved you’ (John 15:12).



- ‘I have come to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were blazing already’ (Luke 12:49).
- ‘I am in the Father and you are in me and I in you’ (John 14:20).
- ‘I pray that they will be one as we are one, with me in them and you in me’ (John 17:21).

Jesus is looking to his Father

The Father is looking towards the Spirit



The Spirit is looking at the Eucharistic gifts on the table.

The one looking at the icon is invited to join them at the table.

(Roman Catechism, Council of Trent, 1545-1563, Preface 10).

‘The whole concern of doctrine and its teaching
must be directed to the love that never ends.

Whether something is proposed for belief,
for hope or for action,

the love of our Lord must always be made accessible,
so that anyone can see

that all the works of perfect Christian virtue
spring from love

and have no other objective
than to arrive at love.’

A Humble Heart

‘There are three things which are very important in helping us to preserve peace, both inward and outward. One of these is love for each other; the second, detachment from created things; the third, true humility, which is the most important of the three and embraces all the rest.’(Teresa Way 4.4)



Matthew 11:28-29

Humility Anthony Bloom 'The Courage to pray'

'The word humility comes from "humus" –
fertile soil ... capable of making good use
of the rubbish we tip into it,
capable of transforming our refuse into wealth,
of accepting every seed,
giving it body, life, growth, to become fully itself
without denaturing it ...

Like the rich silent, creative earth,
we should offer ourselves to the Other.'(page 11)

A Silent Heart

‘Our greatest need is to be silent before this great God with the appetite and with the tongue, for the only language the hears is the silent language of love.’(John of the Cross, 22nd November 1587).

‘Activism takes cover under numerous and often noble excuses: necessities of life, urgent duties of one’s state, fear lest a certain milieu win and dissipate people, joys to be had in generous action which opens up and enlarges one’s power, the aridity and apparently useless abjection of prayer, and above all a great pity for those around us whose misery is a constant appeal to our Christian charity.’(Fr Marie-Eugène OCD, I want to see God, page 420).



A Believing Heart

A heart open to welcome grace

A Heart open to welcome the Holy One

‘The soul is God’s most beautiful creation. So then, soul, so anxious to know the whereabouts of the One you love so that you may seek Him and be united to Him, know that you yourself are His dwelling place, his secret chamber, the place where he lies hidden. Rejoice and be glad, for all you ever wanted, all you ever hoped for, is so close as to be within you. You cannot be without Him.’

(John of the Cross Spiritual Canticle 1.7).



You are all I want



You are all I want

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You are all I want.
You are all I need.
You alone are my delight.

You shepherd me with love.
You lead me through
the darkness of night.
In you my heart shall rest.



O Lord, you are my God,
my shepherd and my light.
There's nothing I shall want.
As I lie in fields of green
near cool and gentle streams,
my heart is calm,
my spirit refreshed.



You are all I want.
You are all I need.
You alone are my delight.

You shepherd me with love.
You lead me through
the darkness of night.
In you my heart shall rest.



*You have spread a lavish feast
for all my foes to see.
You give me all I need.*

*You anoint my head with oil,
you soothe and heal my soul.
My heart is full. I sing for joy.*



You are all I want.
You are all I need.
You alone are my delight.

You shepherd me with love.
You lead me through
the darkness of night.
In you my heart shall rest.



Your goodness shall pursue me.
Your kindness overwhelms me.
You shelter all my days.

In your house I will dwell
and live my life forever
in your arms of love
I am home.



You are all I want.

You are all I need.

You alone are my delight.

You shepherd me with love.

You lead me through
the darkness of night.

In you my heart shall rest.

In you my heart shall rest.