

Experiencing the Depths

Conversion is a gift and an achievement. It is the act of a moment and the work of a lifetime. You cannot attain salvation by disciplines – it is the gift of God. But you cannot retain it without discipline. If you try to attain salvation by disciplines, you will be trying to discipline an unsunderd self. You will be sitting on a lid. The result will bet tenseness instead of trust. “You will wrestle instead of nestle. “While salvation cannot be attained by discipline around an unsundered self, nevertheless when the self is surrendered to Christ and a new center formed, then you can discipline your life around the new center- Christ. Discipline is the fruit of conversion – not the root. *E. Stanley Jones Conversion*

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord , continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Colossians 2:6-7

The worst thing that can happen to a person who is already divided up into dozens of different compartments is to seal off yet another compartment and tell him that this one is more important than the others, and that he must henceforth exercise special care in keeping it separate from them. That is what happens when contemplation is unwisely thrust without warning upon the bewilderment and distraction of western man.

Thomas Merton The inner experience.

Praying the scripture” is not judged by how much you read but the way you read it. If you read quickly, it will benefit you little. You will be like the bee that merely skims the surface of a flower. Instead, in this new way of reading with prayer, you become as the bee who penetrates into the depths of the flower. You plunge deeply within to remove its deepest nectar.

Madame Guyon.

Experiencing the depths of Jesus Christ

Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your word. My soul is consumed with longing for your word at all times. How sweet are your words to my taste sweeter than honey to my mouth. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. *Psalms 119:18,20,103,105*

What about distractions? Let us say your mind begins to wander. Once you have been deeply touched by the Lords Spirit and are distracted, be diligent to bring your mind back to the Lord. This is the easiest way in the world to overcome external distractions. When your mind is wandering don't try and deal with it by changing what you are thinking. You see, if you pay attention to what you are thinking, you will only irritate your mind and stir it up more. Instead, gently move back to the scripture! Keep turning back. By doing this you will win the war with your wandering mind and yet never directly engage in the battle!

Madame Guyon Experiencing the depths of Jesus Christ

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Sprit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask of imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever!

Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21