

Living Love –

Lessons in the Cocoon

From You Set My Spirit Free - A 40 Day Journey in the Company of John of the Cross

Have you completely forgotten that divine word of appeal and encouragement?...Submit to the correction and discipline of the Lord...for the Lord corrects...everyone whom He loves...God is dealing with you as sons. Hebrews 12:5-7, AMP

I want to show you a marvel, a spiritual truth that will help you to understand the ways of God which the worldly minded cannot understand: The love of God is never idle, though our weak flesh often believes that He has forgotten us. We think the proof of His abandonment is that He allows unlovely things to happen to us. This is not so. But we misunderstand the way love works.

God's purpose is to so enkindle us in love that we are full of life, and full of delight. But first, in order to penetrate into our souls, it is necessary for love to wound.

For God's love is both deeper and higher than the poor sick thing we call love – which is not love at all, but walls of defense we raise about our inner man. And so we try to protect that which is in the throes of death, when Love wants to “wound” us and open us up to Life.

The sense of wounding we feel is really only the way our flesh *perceives* the first actions of God as He comes to join Himself with us. And, In fact, these sparks of love may even feel to us like the piercing wounds of many arrows.

If you will seek Him in your spirit, I know that you will begin to see the pains and oppositions of life I this new way: They are the most tender and delicate touches of God's desire for us, by which He works the arts and wiles of love upon the soul.

You ask, “How can this be true?” God must reveal to us that *nothing in this life is truly good, for it is not lasting*. And our soul, which is eternal must stop trying to find its resting place and security in earthly loves and worldly joys. Nothing in this life can offer the secure hope, the limitless love our soul needs – for the earth and all that is in it is passing away, but our soul is eternal....

Therefore I say, renew your mind so that you can see every wound that comes to you as coming from the playful hand of God. It is because He loves you that He refuses to let you rest your soul in this corrupt dying world.

So I say – and now you will not think it is strange – that God will wound you deeply. For in this way, He continues to open all inner chambers of your soul. And the devil cannot enter there. And your own worldly senses, which would betray your heavenly Lover, cannot enter there.

In all this He is opening the way to the central chamber of your soul. There He plans to set you before a feast. This, I tell you, is the banquet place of the Holy Spirit.

Living Flame of Love: Stanza 1. John of the Cross.

Prayer: My Father, I have sometimes blamed you when circumstances are hard, when I have felt wounded by other people...until I have felt bruised and empty.

Correct my spirit with your truth – that you are always at work, in every situation, even those that hurt. And your greatest work is to free me from things that will always fail me in the end....so I can know your higher love that is endless.....