

Reflection on Conversation Two of “The Practice of the Presence of God”

Helen Hawkins May 2, 2021

The first paragraph on page 14 really came home to me because it echoed similar thoughts that I have had. “Therefore, whatever becomes of me after death, whether I am lost or saved, I will always continue to act purely for the love of God. I shall have this consolation at least; that till death, I shall have done all that is in me to love Him.”

I find comfort in the thought that I have freewill and can choose to love God. Despite doubt, despite my sins, I will love God forever. I will accept God’s will and recognize that He and He alone is in control. I also find comfort in the Church’s teaching that Hell is the total absence of love. Therefore, I may not merit heaven, but my love will, at very least, keep me on the last rung of purgatory. Most important for me, I will know God IS and that I can love God and love Him forever. Just to know that God IS will answer all my prayers.

The second paragraph on page 16 referring to his belief that God never failed to grant help: “The same was true of his work in the kitchen (to which he had a natural aversion)”

Don’t we all. Daily chores and getting necessary things done, interfere with what we want to do. Brother Lawrence can teach us how we can lift all these necessary but tedious chores to God and find ourselves being able to meditate and be with God in, of all places, the kitchen.

The fourth paragraph page 18: “All kinds of spiritual disciplines, if they are void of the love of God, cannot remove a single sin from our lives.”

For me, the various prayers and devotions are beautiful gifts from God. But, if they are prayed and followed as rote duties to be performed, they are of little use. Having said that, however, there are times when our prayers and devotions seem dry and sterile. We must not give up on these devotions for God may be leading us in ways we do not understand.