



Day Seventeen

Awakening to God's Presence

Jesus called us to love.
It is hard work.
Just as some qualities of life
are an intrinsic part of love,
others work against it.
Love is:
Not arrogant.
So, we are not insensitive to others,
considering ourselves better than them,
and treating them with scorn.
Not selfish.
We do not give only to get,
or think solely of personal benefit.
We do not step on and over others just to be first.
Not negative.
We do not live with endless suspicions,
rash and unfounded judgments,
always assuming the worst of others.
Not harsh.
We do not rejoice at the failure of others,
or at their embarrassment or suffering,
thus neglecting compassion, truth, and justice.
Our growth in love advances
by assuming others' good intentions.
We are becoming truly concerned for others,
and are thus reflecting God
in whose image and likeness we are created.
When we are successful at loving
we should count it as God's grace.
When we fail, we should not be discouraged,
but call upon Jesus to help us.
And he will.

Living by God's Grace

Ask for the gift of love.

Acknowledging God's Gifts

May this night's rest
be a blessing for me,
recharging my capacity for love
and re-energizing my efforts to love.
Lord, bless this day now closing
with the transforming power of your grace.
May what I did accomplish and attempt
serve as a sign of your loving presence.
Bless the day that will soon begin
with the guidance of your Spirit,
and the power of your Word.
Let tomorrow be another moment
of renewing my commitment
to live as an example of Jesus.
I want to live and love as Jesus did.
For this day, thank you.
Bless this night.
May tomorrow be a fresh beginning.

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