



## Day Twenty-Six

### Awakening to God's Presence

Shouldering the cross takes courage.  
Only a faith perspective  
on the value of the cross  
can give us the strength we need.  
There is benefit in the cross.  
Above all, we learn to see  
the advantages of becoming  
more and more like the image of Jesus.  
By faith, we can see the cross as a treasure,  
far more valuable than gold or jewels.  
We don't need to look for the cross;  
we encounter it every day  
in the little events of life.  
When we fully accept Christian life,  
we learn not to fear our crosses.  
They have a transforming power.  
Somehow, we develop the courage to receive these crosses  
more readily than we would a piece of the true cross.  
Don't get beaten down by difficulties,  
however hard or heavy they may be.  
They are relics of the cross at our fingertips.  
Struggles and lack of resources,  
betrayal and abandonment by friends,  
sickness, the hardships of each day and hour,  
the death of loved ones—  
all these are the true wood or substance of the cross.  
By the cross, we become loving people.  
Our love is patient and accepting,  
generous and compassionate,  
always faithful because it unites us with Christ.  
Never forget—  
God's help always comes in proportion to our trials.

### Living by God's Grace

Be one with Jesus on the cross.

### **Acknowledging God's Gifts**

May this night's rest  
sharpen my awareness  
and strengthen my resolve  
to accept the crosses I encounter  
throughout the day and every day.  
Lord, let the crosses I had today,  
be the means through which  
I continue to grow in your living likeness.  
Tomorrow's dawn will bring  
both the new and the old,  
the familiar and the foreign.  
Whatever comes, let it be a call for me  
to be patient, compassionate, loving.  
I want to live in the likeness of Jesus.  
For this day, thank you.  
Bless this night.  
May tomorrow be a fresh beginning.

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