



Day Six

Awakening to God's Presence

This business
of trusting and believing,
of striving to be holy—
and dare we say—trying to be perfect
is very hard work.
How to begin and sustain holiness?
Where to look for guidance?
What is the standard?
When will we arrive there?
The questions can multiply and blur into oblivion.
The demands of daily life
reassert themselves with urgency,
demanding our undivided attention.
We can come to believe
that holiness and perfection
are simply beyond our reach.
However long we journey,
we just won't make it.
But God didn't make it this difficult.
We made it difficult over time, over the centuries.
We pile expectations on top of assumptions,
creating impossible standards and scenarios.
God does not attach our perfection to any of that.
God looks to the little stuff in everyday life.
The small acts of kindness and generosity,
a wave, a smile, a welcome,
a helping hand and a gentle word.
This is what God sees.
Holiness and perfection are well within our grasp.
We just need to live today the best we can,
using what we have right in our hands and hearts.

Living by God's Grace

Embrace today as God's invitation to holiness.

Acknowledging God's Gifts

May this night's rest
clear my head and my heart
of those unattainable standards I have set.
Those goals only weary my hands,
and discourage my efforts.
They drain me of energy for the future.
Transfigure the day that is closing, God.
Let me cherish it and take from it
whatever I will need
to live well in the days ahead.
Let me begin anew tomorrow,
noticing the beauty and potential
of the tiniest happenings.
I want to relish and rejoice
in the opportunities they present.
I want the holiness and perfection meant for my life.
For this day, thank you.
Bless this night.
May tomorrow be a fresh beginning.

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