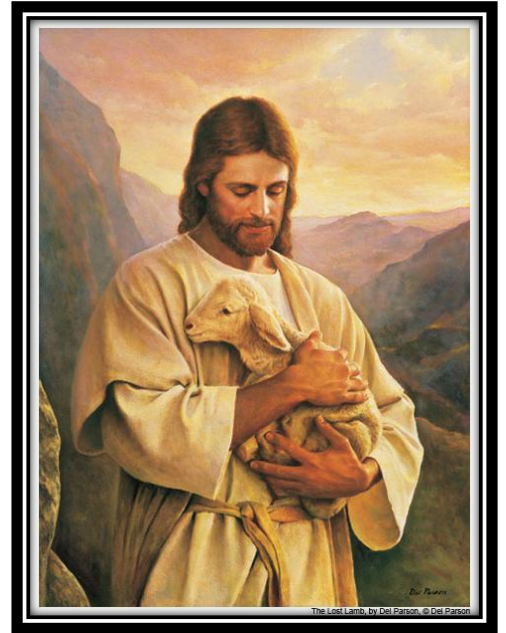


Sunday, May 6, 2012

Experiencing God (2)

Lets' continue to present spiritual excerpts from the book of Brother Lawrence, "The Practice of the Presence of God."

- ❖ Not to advance, in the spiritual life, is to go back.
- ❖ Nothing in this world is sweeter or more delightful than to continuously converse with GOD.
- ❖ In doing good deeds in your old age, it is better late than never.
- ❖ God is nearer to us than we think.
- ❖ It is not necessary for being with GOD to be always at church; we could make our heart a church, wherein to retire from time to time, to converse with Him in meekness, humility, and love. Everyone is capable of such casual conversation with GOD, some more, some less: He knows what we are capable of, we only need to begin.
- ❖ The spiritual life is a life of grace; it begins with the fear of God, grows through hope in eternal life, and reaches its perfection by pure love.
- ❖ As for my set hours of prayer, sometimes I consider myself as a stone before a carver, from which he makes a sculpture. As I present myself thus before GOD, I desire Him to make His perfect image in my soul, and render me entirely like Himself.
- ❖ I wonder what joy we might have if we find the treasure that the Bible speaks about! The deeper we sail the bigger the treasure might be, let's then search without ceasing until we find it.
- ❖ We have a GOD who is infinitely gracious, and knows all our needs, He will come in due time, and when you least expect it.
- ❖ A little lifting up the heart is sufficient to protect the soldier's courage in occasions of danger.
- ❖ One does not become a saint in an instant, we ought to help one another with advice, and more



importantly by our good examples.

- ❖ We ought to love our friends, but without encroaching upon the love of GOD, which must be the first priority..
- ❖ Do not pray to God that he may deliver you from your pains; but rather pray that He would give you strength and patience to bear them as long as they last.
- ❖ The healing of our diseases are often delayed because of the great trust we place in whatever remedies we make use of instead of God. When the pain comes from GOD, He alone can cure it. He often sends diseases of the body, to



cure those of the soul. Comfort yourself with the sovereign Physician of both the soul and the body.

- ❖ You must always control your senses, for without it is impossible to enjoy the divine presence of God.
- ❖ Brethren, it is our ultimate work to glorify God and love Him without troubling ourselves with anything else.

Fr. Yohanna Naseef

fryohanna@hotmail.com

St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church, Palatine, IL

