

out and admire and look at nature. For in all things, so beautifully and ingeniously created by Him, you can see GOD. Meditate on the love, with which GOD cares for every single flower, and on the might and power, with which He gives to the stars their course and to all created things their destination. Even in your suffering you can find GOD.

If you seek GOD with all your heart, sooner or later He will fill you to such an extent that you learn to look at the world and humanity from GOD's perspective. Nicholas of Flüe once said to a young man: „GOD can make a vision taste so good as if you would go dancing; and on the other hand he can make a vision feel as if you were fighting in battle.” Your life will be a great enrichment, but you will also see and experience many painful things. However: seeking and finding GOD is something enormously beautiful despite all the painful experiences. Because GOD is Love and Love gives! Love seeks: „What can I give?” Then you will ask less and be more grateful instead. Amen!



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Sermon of the Sword-Bishop

Seeking GOD Finding GOD

My beloved, you have just heard the very beautiful passage: „When you seek Me with all your heart, I will be found by you,” declares the Lord.” (Jer 29, 13-14) from the oratorio ‘Elijah’, composed by Mendelssohn. – What mighty words, indeed! They go for an entire sermon. Hearing this song should make your face shine as if you were already in the seventh Heaven. However hard your life may be, if you seek GOD in this way, ‘this distressful earth’ will sink into absolute nothingness. Then you will only think of the glory of eternal beatitude awaiting you.

GOD will be found, that is for sure. „Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you!” (Mt 7,7), says the SAVIOUR.

Nicholas of Flüe – a True Seeker of GOD

Many believe they are seeking GOD. However, in most cases they are just seeking themselves, seeking merely their own, self-made GOD. And the moment GOD wants to reveal Himself to them, they run off: „Oh no!” – Your own, self-made GOD cannot be found. He does not lead to where the true GOD wants his creature to be! St Nicholas of Flüe was one of the few people who has been truly seeking GOD with all their heart. He went through terrible times, years of struggle, for GOD revealed Himself increasingly to him. This freed him from all earthly bonds, even from eating. He belonged to GOD alone.

Nicholas of Flüe was prepared to give up everything in order to follow GOD's will. What lay heavy on him for years and years, though, was the struggle for clarity whether it really was GOD's call that he should

leave his wife and children, give up those persons so near and dear to him! No one can understand it! „Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. Whoever does not take up his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” (Mt 10,37ff) These are the words GOD addresses to those who unconditionally seek Him. Nicholas of Flüe was prepared to say ‘yes’. He became the Patron of the world peace!

Also your seeking and your ‘yes’ towards GOD will not remain fruitless provided that you keep seeking.

Why Does GOD Want to Be Sought?

Perhaps you, too, long to say with an ardent desire: „If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling!” (Job, 23,3) as it is sung in this oratorio further on. Maybe you are thinking: „I have been seeking GOD for years and years but I do not find Him. What am I doing wrong?” Well, sometimes the dear GOD ‘hides’ Himself. For the simple reason that He wants to verify whether your seeking is honest, because to find Him means to find an immeasurably great treasure. Are you also willing to give up everything for it as it is written in the Gospel? „The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.” (Mt 13,44ff) – A second reason is that GOD’s holding back will enhance your longing and thus turn it into a mighty fire, which cleanses and purifies you for GOD’s coming. Because: „But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver. He will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness.” (Mal 3,2f)

Desolation

When you will finally have found GOD after a long, long period of trial, of testing and of purification, the time will come when GOD suddenly and unexpectedly withdraws from you. These are times of deepest desolation. Such

times are experienced by capable and proven souls, which GOD can now make use of as victim souls. The SAVIOUR, too, took upon Himself this atoning suffering. When He was hung on the Cross, He cried out: „My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Mk 15,34) Who could have the faintest notion what horrible moments these must have been for the SAVIOUR. Because to be forsaken by GOD is hell. But JESUS’ willingness to make atonement was not shaken and so a little later He said, before He died: „Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” (Lk, 23,46)

Why Are We on Earth?

My beloved, are we not on this earth for the very reason that we may seek GOD with all our hearts, as it is sung in this oratorio?! Do you do this? Many people do anything for their career and for their leisure time, they sacrifice themselves for their work 40 years and more. There is nothing wrong with that because it says: „By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food ...” (Gen 3,19) But how much time and strength do you spend in order to find GOD and eternal beatitude? If you do not seek GOD, you must not be surprised if you do not find Him. Do not deceive yourself! A lukewarm person is more abominable before GOD than a man trapped in sin. A lukewarm soul is a decomposing soul. „So, because you are lukewarm, neither hot nor cold, I am about to spit you out of my mouth.” (Rev 3,16) A decomposing body is horrible, a decomposing soul, a decomposing spirit, however, is a thousand times more horrible.

GOD does not say: „When you love and worship Me with all your heart, I will be found by you,” but: „When you seek Me with all your heart ...” Seeking GOD does not mean to remove the altar slab to look if GOD is hiding under it. If you live in the state of sanctifying grace, GOD dwells in you. „Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” (Joh 14,23) However, you will never recognize GOD in you if you listen to nothing but loud, discordant music, which is an abomination to GOD, or if you expose yourself to a constant stream of television programmes all day long.

How Do I Find GOD?

If you turn to GOD in prayer, you may find GOD. But you may also find GOD by reading a good, spiritual book or by contemplating GOD’s creation. Go