



Daily Reflections

May 18, 2019

Scripture

John 14: 7-14

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If you know me, then you will also know my Father.

From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to Jesus,

"Master, show us the Father, and that will be enough for us."

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip?

Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.

How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?

The words that I speak to you I do not speak on my own.

The Father who dwells in me is doing his works.

Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, or else, believe because of the works themselves.

Amen, amen, I say to you,

whoever believes in me will do the works that I do, and will do greater ones than these,

because I am going to the Father.

And whatever you ask in my name, I will do,

so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If you ask anything of me in my name, I will do it."

Our Scripture Reflection

Poor Philip, the precise and logical one: "Master, show us the Father and that will be enough for us...."

Would that it could have been so easy! It is as easy as falling in love. Have you ever been there?? There is so much that makes sense but then there is so much that is pure mystery. And we humans struggle with mystery. To know and see God requires intimacy and intimacy is mystery; and the whole process takes time. Philip wanted the quick fix, Jesus offered no such thing. Are YOU willing to invest in what it does take? Trust me, it's worth it.

Food for your Journey

Sometimes we feel like Jesus when he cried on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." Richard Foster, in his work, *Prayer*, comments: "You and I will pray this Prayer of the Forsaken if we seek the intimacy of perpetual communion with the Father. Times of seeming desertion and absence and abandonment appear to be universal among those who have walked this path of faith before us. We might just as well get used to the idea that, sooner or later, we, too, will know what it means to feel forsaken by God."

Foster continues: "The old writers spoke of this reality as *Deus Absconditus* - the God who is hidden Have you ever tried to pray and felt nothing, saw nothing, sensed nothing? Has it ever seemed like your prayers did no more than bounce off the ceiling and ricochet around an empty room? ... Sometimes it just seems like God is hidden from us. We do everything we can. And still there is nothing! It feels like we are 'beating on heaven's door with bruised knuckles in the dark' to use the words of George Buttrick Every hope evaporates the moment we reach for it. Every dream dies the moment we try to realize it. We question, we doubt, we struggle. Nothing helps. We pray, and the words seem empty. We turn to the Bible, and find it meaningless. We turn to music, and it fails to move us. We seek the fellowship of other Christians, and discover only backbiting, selfishness and egoism."

-As cited by Ken Gire in *Between Heaven and Earth* (HarperSanFrancisco, 1997), 268.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, Like so many people, I lack patience. But anything that's worth anything takes time. Make me both grateful for and humbled by the love You offer me. May I realize that only Your love will bring me Peace. May I take the time to seek You and Your love above all else. Amen