



Finding Home

Jesus' Invitation to a Transforming Friendship

“Make your home in me, and I will make my home in you.”—Jesus

Spiritual Direction

Being Christ to our world has little to do with apologetics, politics, or debate. We can master every argument, debate each issue, but without love, we have done nothing.

¹ If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love, I'm nothing but the creaking of a rusty gate. ² If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, “Jump,” and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing. ³⁻⁷ If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.¹

Sometimes it's helpful to pause and remember what we're doing here and why.

Exploring

“I am the prodigal son every time I search for unconditional love where it cannot be found. Why do I keep ignoring the place of true love and persist in looking for it elsewhere? Why do I keep leaving home where I am called a child of God, the Beloved of my Father? I am constantly surprised at how I keep taking the gifts God has given me — my health, my intellectual and emotional gifts — and keep using them to impress people, receive affirmation and praise, and compete for rewards, instead of developing them for the glory of God. Yes, I often carry them off to a ‘distant country’ and put them in the service of an exploiting world that does not know their true value. It's almost as if I want to prove to myself and to my world that I do not need God's love, that I can make a life on my own, that I want to be fully independent. Beneath it all is the great rebellion, the radical ‘No’ to the Father's love, the unspoken curse: ‘I wish you were dead.’ The prodigal son's ‘No’ reflects Adam's original rebellion: his rejection of the God in whose love we are created and by whose love we are sustained. It is the rebellion that places me outside the garden, out of reach of the tree of life. It is the rebellion that makes me dissipate myself in a ‘distant country.’²

Question

What is it that makes God's love not enough for you at times? Explore this in prayer.

¹ 1 Corinthians 13:1-7.

² Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming*, 72.