



Commentary

A number of you have asked me to give more insight into the Contemplations of the 12 Fridays. Well, contemplations are different from traditional teachings. Contemplation is a part of the Feminine approach to realization of our true nature in Divinity. Contemplations are to be "contemplated" or dwelled upon over some time. The Pure Knowledge of the contemplation is like a seed that germinates and the wisdom that it contains grows within. It continually reveals deeper and deeper levels of meaning. So, after meditation or when you are quiet and not disturbed, read the contemplation several times. Close your eyes and repeat it. Imagine repeating the words deep in your heart. Do this for a while and then pause and be still. Think the contemplation again and with a subtle intention ask that its meaning be revealed to you and for you.

I remember early on, being given the contemplation of Faith: "Everything that happens is perfect according to a Divine Plan." Boy, did I struggle with that one. How can a loving God do this, that and the other thing? Then one day, from deep inside, I wondered about the "love" in a loving God? And then I realized that I had love all wrong and over time love revealed itself - and it wasn't an emotion or a comfortable set of circumstances and a happy Being showering me with answers to prayers and giving me what I had prayed for. No! God's love is to give us what we need (not want) so that we can grow to our full potential. Later in the Christmas Retreat we will talk about what we need to master in this earth school, which is nothing short of "self-emptying love." This is a message of the Christ. This is referred to as "kenosis" and a shorthand is, that this Love is the absolute commitment to the Highest Good for ourselves and others. So, if our highest good in the inner life is to live from a state of inner peace, then Faith that there is a Plan and it is for our greatest good is absolutely essential. And what does God do to enliven Faith? CHALLENGE US! Sends us all kinds of circumstances that we can only process by allowing the truth that "everything comes to us from Him for our highest good - there is a Divine Plan - and the human mind can never, ever understand the Divine Mind or the Divine Plan." Thus, He gives us a twofer - an opportunity to practice Faith and Acceptance at the same time. In-document footnote here: universally across all the spiritual traditions Inner Peace is a major goal. Inner Peace is a sign of the presence of God within. Remember that this is a cosmic school and to get to Inner peace, there are four processes that we must master - Surrender, Faith, Patience and Acceptance. Everything comes to us as an opportunity to learn and practice these. I will be more eloquent at the retreat but

for now, contemplate the Contemplation. Let it go deep inside and over time it will reveal it's wisdom to you - and that wisdom will be specific to you.

Early on, this poem by St. John of the Cross

DEVELOPMENT

Once I said to God, "How do you teach us?"

And He replied,

"If
you were
playing chess with someone who
had infinite power and infinite knowledge
and wanted to make you a
master of the
game,

where would all the chess
pieces be at every
moment?

Indeed, not only where He wanted them,
but where all were best for your
development;

and that is every situation
of one's
life."

Having had a rigorous background in the sciences I had a very hard time trying to understand the deeper mystical truths. My spiritual director was quite blunt when he told me that you can't understand the mystical truths because like understanding engineering or the hard sciences because mystical truths are of a transcendent nature beyond human (rational and empirical) experience. He said to just get the flavor, the sense of it and over time you won't need to humanly understand - the soul will know. Mystical Truth is the intuitive knowledge of the soul - the knowledge of the workings of the ONE!

Only Love, Jerry