

**Experiencing
the
Depths
of
Jesus Christ**

by
Jeanne Guyon

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Formerly Entitled:
**SHORT AND VERY EASY
METHOD OF PRAYER;**
WHICH ALL CAN PRACTICE WITH THE GREATEST
FACILITY, AND ARRIVE IN A SHORT TIME,
BY ITS MEANS, AT A HIGH DEGREE
OF PERFECTION

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PREFACE

Preface

Written in the latter part of the
Seventeenth Century

This little book, conceived in great simplicity, was not written to be published. I wrote it for a few individuals who desired to love God with all their hearts. But because of the profit they received from reading the manuscript, many asked to obtain their own personal copy. It was because of these requests that this little book was committed to the press.

I have left the book in its original simplicity. It contains no criticism of the teachings of others who have written concerning spiritual things. On the contrary, it enforces those teachings.

I now submit the entire book to the judgment of learned and experienced men with but this request: Please do not stop at the surface but enter into my main purpose in writing. That purpose is to induce the whole world to love God and to serve Him in a way that is easier and simpler than any could imagine.

I have intentionally written this book to those dear, simple followers of Jesus Christ who are not qualified for intensive research but who, nonetheless, desire to be wholly given to God.

The reader who comes to this book—without prejudice—will find, hidden beneath the simplest

expressions, a secret unction. This unction will excite him to seek after that inward happiness which all the Lord's disciples should wish to lay hold of and enjoy.

I have stated that *perfection* can easily be attained, and this is true. Jesus Christ is *perfection*, and when we seek Him within ourselves, He is easily found.

But perhaps you will reply, "Did the Lord not say, 'You shall seek me and shall not find me.'?" (John 7:34) Ah, but your Lord, who cannot contradict Himself, also said to all, "Seek, and you *shall* find." (Matthew 7:7)

Yes, it is true, if you seek the Lord and yet are unwilling to stop your sinning, you shall not find Him. Why? Because you are seeking Him in a place where He is not. Therefore, it is said, "You shall die in your sins."

But if you will take the trouble to seek God in your own heart, and if you sincerely forsake your sins so that you may draw near to Him, you shall infallibly find Him.

I realize that the prospect of living a "life of piety" is frightening to most Christians. And prayer is viewed as a very difficult attainment. Consequently, most believers are too discouraged at the very outset even to take the first step in this direction. It is true that if you consider the difficulty of some new undertaking, it can cause you to despair and make you reluctant to begin. On the other hand, the desirability of such an adventure—and the idea that it may easily be accomplished—can cause you to launch out with vigor.

This book, therefore, lights the way to the desirability, the pleasure, the advantages and the ease of these two matters: prayer and piety.

Oh, if only once we could be convinced of God's

goodness towards His children and of His desire to reveal Himself to them! We would no longer seek our own selfish desires. We would not be so quickly discouraged from pursuing what He is so longing to give us.

He who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not, with Him, also freely give us all things?

(Romans 8:32)

We only need a little courage and perseverance. Actually, we have enough of both in our earthly affairs, but none at all in the only thing that really matters. (Luke 10:42)

Some of you may doubt that God can actually be found so easily. If so, do not merely take my word for it. Instead, try for yourselves what I am proposing to you. For I am sure that your own experience will convince you that the reality is far greater than what I have told you.

Beloved reader, read this little book with a sincere and honest spirit. Read it in lowliness of mind without the inclination to criticize. If you do, you will not fail to reap profit from it. *I have written this book with a desire that you might wholly give yourself to God.*

Please receive this book with that same desire in your own heart.

This book has no other purpose than this: to invite the simple and the child-like to approach their Father... a Father who delights in seeing the humble confidence of His children and is grieved by their distrust.

Therefore, with a sincere desire for your own salvation, seek nothing from this book except *the love of God*. With such an expectation you shall assuredly obtain that love.

I am not saying that this way is better than that of someone else. I am only honestly declaring, from my own experience and that of others, the joy found in following the Lord in this way.

There are many other subjects we could touch upon—things of great spiritual significance—but because they do not immediately relate to our main subject, experiencing Jesus Christ, they have been omitted. Without a doubt, nothing will be found here that will offend if only the little book is read in the same spirit in which it was written. Even more certainly, those who earnestly make trial of this way will find that I have written the truth.

Oh Holy Jesus, it is You alone who love the simple and innocent. It is Your "delight to dwell with the children of men," (Proverbs 8:3) with those who are willing to become "little children." (Matthew 18:3) You are the only One who can cause this little book to be of any value. Beloved Lord, write it on the hearts of those who read it and lead them to seek You within themselves. It is there that You rest, as in the manger, waiting to receive proofs of their love and to give them testimonies of Yours in return. Oh, it is true that the fault is theirs for not experiencing all that You are so willing to give. And yet—oh, Child Almighty, Uncreated Love, Silent and All-containing

Word—it is really up to You to make
Yourself loved, enjoyed and understood.
You can do it, and I know that You will do
it in this little book, for it belongs entirely
to You; it came wholly out of You; and it
points only to You.

Jeanne Guyon
Grenoble, France
about 1685

*If you are starving and can find
nothing to satisfy your hunger,
then come. Come, and you will
by filled.*

Jeanne Guyon