

Experiencing the Presence of God

Chapter 3: The Rest of My Life An Experiment

March 15, 1930

This week a new, and to me marvelous, experience has come out of my loneliness. I have been so desperately lonesome that it was unbearable save by talking with God. And so every, waking moment of the week I have been looking toward Him, with perhaps the exception of an hour or two.

Last Thursday night I was listening to a phonograph in Lumbatan and allowing my heart to commune, when something broke within me, and I longed not only to lift my own will up but also to give it completely to God.

How infinitely richer this direct first hand grasping of God himself is, than the old method which I used and recommended for years, the reading of endless devotional books. Almost it seems to me now that the very Bible cannot be read as a substitute for meeting God soul to soul and face to face. And yet, how was this new closeness achieved? Ah, I know now that it was by cutting the very heart of my heart and by suffering.

[comment>that is the suffering of the wounding of my pride which pain is often more excruciating than the physical pain of childbirth or that of the presence of stones in the kidney<comment.]

Somebody was telling me this week that nobody can make a violin speak the last depths of human longing until that soul has been made tender by some great anguish. I do not say it is the only way to the heart of God, but I must witness that it has opened an inner shrine for me which I never entered before.

Loneliness to Never Alone - Frank Laubach