

## **A Testament of Devotion**

### **The Light Within**

1. Deep within us all there is an amazing inner sanctuary of the soul, a holy place, a Divine Center, a speaking Voice, to which we may continuously return. Eternity is at our hearts, pressing upon our time-torn lives, warming us with intimations of an astounding destiny, calling us home unto Itself. Yielding to these persuasions, gladly committing ourselves in body and soul, utterly and completely, the Light Within, is the beginning of true life...Here is the Slumbering Christ stirring to be awakened...The Divine is within us all. (page 3)
2. In this humanistic age we suppose humans are the initiator and God is the responder. But the Spirit within us is the initiator and we are the responders (page 4)
3. The basic response of the soul to the Light is internal adoration and joy, thanksgiving and worship, self-surrender and listening...The secret places of the heart cease to be our noisy workshop....But the light fades, the will weakens, the humdrum returns. Can we stay this fading? No, nor should we try, for we must learn the disciplines of God's will, and pass beyond this first lesson of God's Grace. (page 4-5)
4. What is here urged are secret habits of unceasing orientation of the deeps of our being about the Inward Light, ways of conducting our inward life so that we are perpetually bowed in worship, while we are very busy in the world of daily affairs. (page 5)
5. God who is within us urges by secret persuasion, to such an amazing Inward Life with the Spirit, so that, firmly cleaving to the Divine, we always look out upon all the world through the sheen of the Inward Light, and react toward humankind spontaneously and joyously from this Inward Center. (page 6)
6. A practicing Christian must above all be one who practices the perpetual return of the soul into the inner sanctuary, who brings the world into its Light and rejudges it, who brings the Light into the world with all its turmoil and its fitfulness and recreates it. (page 8)
7. There is a way of ordering our mental life on more than one level at once. On one level we may be thinking, discussing, seeing, calculating, meeting all the demands of external affairs. But deep within, behind the scenes, at a profounder level, we may also be in prayer and adoration, song and worship and a gentle receptiveness to divine breathings. (page 9)
8. The heart of the religious life is in commitment and worship, not in reflection and theory...offer your whole selves, utterly and in joyful abandon, in quiet, glad surrender to the Divine who is within...lapses and forgettings are so frequent...when you catch yourself again, lose no time in self-recriminations, but breathe a silent prayer for forgiveness and begin again, just where you are...Admit no discouragement, but ever return quietly to the Spirit and wait on God's Presence. (Pages 11-13)

*A Testament of Devotion was written in 1941 and reflects the language and culture of that time. Some of the text in these excerpts has been altered in order to be more inclusive and reflective of today's sensitivities.*

9. For God works in our souls, in their deepest depths, taking increasing control as we progressively are willing to be prepared for the wonder of the Spirit. We cease trying to make ourselves the dictators and God the listener, and become the joyful listeners to the Divine, the Master who does all things well. For we cannot take God by storm. (pages 14-15)
  
10. There is no new technique for entrance upon (the) stage where the soul in its deeper levels is continuously at Home in God. The processes of inward prayer do not grow more complex, but more simple...with simple whispered words...(such as) "Thine Only"...But the time will come when verbalization is not so imperative, and yields place to the attitudes of soul which you intended to express in words...attitudes of lifting high your whole being before the Divine that the Light may shine into the last crevice and drive away all darkness...attitudes of self-abandonment...this inner level has a life of its own, invigorated not by us but by a divine Source. (pages 16-17)
  
11. The autonomy of the inner life becomes complete and we are joyfully prayed through, by a Seeking Life that flows through us into the world...Paradoxically, this total Instruction proceeds in two opposing directions at once. We are torn loose from earthly attachments and ambitions...And we are quickened to a divine but painful concern for the world. (pages 18-19)
  
12. God plucks the world out of our hearts, loosening the chains of attachment. And hurls the world into our hearts, where we and the Spirit together carry it in infinitely tender love....God asks all, but God gives all. (pages 20-22)

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