

## A Testament of Devotion The Simplification of Life

1. Our lives today grow too complex and overcrowded. The obligations we feel we must meet grow overnight and before we know it we are bowed down with burdens, crushed under committees, strained, breathless, and hurried, panting through a never-ending program of appointments...The times for the deeps of silence of the heart seem so few...and we postpone the deeper life of unshaken composure in the holy Presence, where we know our true home is. (page 89-90)
2. We are apt to think our great problems are external, environmental. We are not skilled in the inner life, where the real roots of our problem lie. I suggest that the true explanation of the complexity of our program is an inner one, not an outer one. (page 91)
3. Over the margins of life comes a whisper, a faint call, a premonition of richer living which we know we are passing by...we have hints that there is a way of life vastly richer and deeper than all this hurried existence, a life of unhurried serenity and peace and power...if only we could slip over into the Center...and find the Silence which is the source of sound! (page 92)
4. Life is meant to be lived from a divine Center. Each one of us can live such a life of amazing power and peace and serenity, of integration and confidence, on one condition – that is, *if we really want to*...But too many of us have heeded the Voice only at times...We have not counted this Holy Thing within us to be the most precious thing in the world. We have not surrendered *all else*, to attend to it alone. (page 93)
5. We haven't been able to say No to many of the things we are doing because they seem so important. But if we *center down*, and live in that holy Silence and take our life program into the silent places of the heart, with complete openness, ready to do, ready to renounce according to Divine leading, then many of the things we are doing lose their vitality for us. (page 95)
6. Have you set yourselves to belong to God and Only God, walking every moment in holy obedience? The fires of the love of God...and of the Divine's love towards us are very hot. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength." Do we really do it? (page 95-96)
7. Do you *want* to live in such an amazing divine Presence that life is transformed and transfigured and transmuted into peace and power and glory and miracle? If you do, then you can. But if you say you haven't the time to go down into the recreating silences, I can only say, "Then you don't really want to, you don't yet love God above all else in the world, with all your heart and soul and mind and strength." We find time for what we *really want to do*. (page 96)
8. Being wholly devoted to the inner holy Presence, in singleness of love to God...doesn't take time or complicate your program. I find that a life of little whispered words of adoration, of praise, of

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prayer, of worship can be breathed throughout the day. One can have a very busy day and yet be steadily in the holy Presence. One can carry the recreating silences within oneself, *well-nigh all the time*. (page 96-97)

9. Our real problem, in failing to center down, is not a lack of time, it is a lack of joyful, enthusiastic delight in the Divine, lack of deep, deep-drawing love directed toward the Spirit at every hour of the day and night...I am talking about a revolutionary way of living. Religion isn't something to be added to our other duties...The life with God is the center of life, and all else is remodeled and integrated by it. (page 97)
10. We cannot keep the love of the Divine to ourselves. It spills over. It makes us see the world's needs anew...It is because from this holy Center we rellove people, rellove our neighbors as ourselves, that we are bestirred to means of their awakening. The deepest need of humankind is not food or clothing and shelter...It is God. (page 98-99)
11. This love of people is as amazing as the love of God. Do we want to help people because we feel sorry for them, or because we genuinely love them? The world needs something deeper than pity; it needs love. (page 99)
12. In our love of people are we to sweep all of humankind and tasks into our loving concern? No, that is the function of the Spirit. But God works within us, portioning out vast concerns into bundles, and lays on each of us our portion. These become our tasks. Life from the Center is a heaven-directed life. (page 99)
13. When we say Yes or No to calls for service based on inner guidance and whispered prompting...we are learning to act on the will of God as we discern it. And I find the Spirit never guides us into an intolerable scramble...The Cosmic Patience becomes our patience, for after all, God is at work in the world and we need not get frantic. God is at the helm. (page 100)