

Stay with us, O Lord

God has made us for Himself, and we cannot live without Him; we need Him, we hunger and thirst for Him; He is the only One who can satisfy our hearts. St. Paul says, “If you be risen with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God; mind the things that are above, not the things that are upon the earth” (Col 3:1-2). **Just as physical hunger is an indication of living, so the spiritual hunger is a sign of God living in us.** The soul which feels no hunger for God, is a dead soul or a weakened soul.

We read in the story of the disciples at Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35), the earnest supplication to Jesus Christ, **“Stay with us O Lord”**. It is the cry of the soul who has found its God and never again wishes to be separated from Him. God draws near our soul, makes Himself our travelling companion and lives in us. He may not reveal to us in clarity of the “face to face” vision which is reserved for eternity; we see Him only as “through a glass in a dark manner” (1 Cor. 13:12). He alone can kindle in our hearts. The disciples at Emmaus said to themselves, **“Was not our hearts burning within us whilst He spoke on the way?”** God always remains with us; it is for us to remain with Him. Let us therefore, beg Him ardently: teach us, O Lord, to stay with You, to live with You.

The search for God is progressive, and must be maintained during our whole life. Following the examples of the disciples of Christ after His Resurrection and the women who were preoccupied about finding Jesus, in spite of our weakness, we must be industrious and diligent in seeking God, and at the same time confident of the divine aid. The Lord will certainly take care that we arrive where our own strength could never bring us because He will do for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

If a soul seeks for God, it's Beloved seeks for it even more. Just as Resurrected Christ called “Mary” by name, He calls us His own sheep by name and the sheep follow Him because they know His voice (Jn. 10:3-4). When Mary hears her name from the Resurrected Lord, she recognizes the Lord and cries out, *“Rabboni! Master!”* Mary seeks only the Lord, she wants Him and Him alone; the rest does not interest her, and does not concern her. That should be our only concern and we should only long for God.

The nearer the soul comes to God, the more it realizes this infinite distance and together there is born in it a profound sentiment of reverence for the supreme majesty of God. When we come near to God, our hearts burn with zeal for Him and we act with love towards God and our neighbor. **The nearness of God brings drastic change in our behavior, attitudes, and in our relationships. Everything seems to be a new experience. It is a new creation.** That is the resurrection. Every year Easter marks a time of renewal in our spiritual life, in our search for God. We are the Easter people. Let us draw near Jesus with the simple, sincere faith of a little child, and He will give us the abundance of His grace as a pledge of eternal life. **“Stay with us O Lord”**.

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