



Chapter Eight

What Does He Want from Me?

“...when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Luke 18:8



THE GRACE: *To Be Overwhelmed*



...God is love.
1 John 4:8



THEMES

What Is Faith?

Faith is *not*:

- *A feeling*
- *Blind*
- *Intellectual assent*

Faith is:

- *God's work in me to which I respond*
- *A way of knowing*
- *Surrender*

How Do I Surrender?

- The easier part: *Clinging to the Lord who rescued you*
- The harder, more challenging part: *Detaching from your idols*



QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- What are the idols in my life?
- What would detaching from the idols in my life look like practically?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Prayer of Surrender

Father,

I believe that out of your infinite love you created me. I come before you, just as I am, with all my brokenness, wounds, and hurts. I am sorry for all the times I have believed the enemy's lies that you are not a good Father and don't love me. I repent and ask you to forgive me for all of my sins.

Jesus,

Thank you for coming to rescue me from Sin, Death, Hell, and Satan. I surrender to you right now and invite you to be Lord over every area of my entire life.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Flood my soul with the love of the Father and convince me that I matter, I'm worth the trouble, and that in God's eyes I'm worth dying for.

Come, Holy Spirit...

I thirst for you

It is true.

I stand at the door of your heart, day and night. Even when you are not listening, even when you doubt it could be me, I am there: waiting for even the smallest signal of your response, even the smallest suggestion of an invitation that will permit me to enter.

And I want you to know that each time you invite me, I do come always, without fail. Silent and invisible I come, yet with a power and a love most infinite, bringing the many gifts of my Spirit. I come with my mercy, with my desire to forgive and heal you, with a love for you that goes beyond your comprehension—a love every bit as great as the love I have received from the Father. I come, longing to console you and give you strength, to lift you up and bind all your wounds. I bring you my light, to dispel your darkness and all your doubts. I come with my power, that I might carry you and all your burdens; with my grace, to touch your heart and transform your life; and my peace, to still your soul.

I know you like the palm of my hand. I know everything about you. Even the hairs of your head I have counted. Nothing in your life is unimportant to me. I have followed you through the years and I have always loved you even when you have strayed. I know every one of your problems. I know your needs and your worries and yes, I know all your sins.

But I tell you again that I love you, not for what you have or ceased to do, I love you for you, for the beauty and the dignity my Father gave you by creating you in his own image. It is a dignity you have often forgotten, a beauty you have tarnished by sin. But I love you as you are, and I have shed my blood to rescue you. If you only ask me with faith. My grace will touch all that needs changing in your life: I will give you the strength to free yourself from sin and from all its destructive power.

I know what is in your heart; I know your loneliness and all your wounds; the rejections, the judgments, the humiliations. I carried it all before you. And I carried it all for you, so you could share my strength and my victory. I know especially your need for love—how much you are thirsting to be loved and cherished. But how often you have thirsted in vain, by seeking that love selfishly, striving to fill the emptiness inside you with passing pleasures—with even the greater emptiness of sin. Do you thirst for love? “Come to me all who thirst...” (John 7:37). I will satisfy you and fill you. Do you thirst to be loved?

I love you more than you can imagine—to the point of dying on a cross for you.

I thirst for you. Yes, that is the only way to even begin to describe my love for you.

I thirst for you. That is the only way to even begin to describe my love for you. I thirst for you. I thirst to love you and to be loved by you; that is how precious you are to me. I thirst for you. Come to me, and I will fill

your heart and heal your wounds. I will make you a new creation and give you peace even in your trials. I thirst for you.

You must never doubt my mercy, my acceptance of you, my desire to forgive, my longing to bless you and live my life in you. I thirst for you. If you feel unimportant in the eyes of the world, that matters not at all. For me, there is no one more important in the world than you. I thirst for you. Open to me, come to me, thirst for me, give me your life, and I will prove to you how important you are for my heart.

Don't you realize that my Father already has a perfect plan to transform your life, beginning from this moment? Trust in me. Ask me every day to enter and take charge of your life, and I will. I promise you before my Father in Heaven that I will work miracles in your life.

Why would I do this? Because I thirst for you. All I ask of you is that you entrust yourself completely to me. I will do all the rest.

Even now, I behold the place my Father has prepared for you in my kingdom. Remember that you are a pilgrim in this life, on a journey home. Sin can never satisfy you, or bring the peace you seek. All that you have sought outside of me has only left you more empty, so do not cling to the things of this life. Above all, do not run from me when you fall. Come to me without delay. When you give me your sins, you give me the joy of being your Savior. There is nothing I cannot forgive and heal; so come now, and unburden your soul.

No matter how far you may wander, no matter how often you forget me, no matter how many crosses you bear in this life; there is one thing I want you to always remember, one thing that will never change: I thirst for you—just as you are. You don't need to change to believe in my love, for it will be your belief in my love that will change you. You forget me, and yet I am seeking you every moment of the day—standing before the doors of your heart and knocking. Do you find this hard to believe?

Then look again at the cross, look at my heart that was pierced for you. Have you not understood my cross? Then listen again to the words I spoke there, for they tell you clearly why I endured all this for you: “I thirst...” (*John 19: 28*). Yes, I thirst for you. I have never stopped seeking to love you and be loved by you. You have tried many other things in your search for happiness; why not try opening up your heart to me, right now, more than you ever have before? And when you finally open the door of your heart, whenever you come close enough, you will then hear me say to you again and again, not in mere human words but in spirit: No matter what you have done, I love you for your own sake. So come to me with your misery and your sins, with your troubles and needs, and with all your longing to be loved—because I stand at the door of your heart and knock.

Open up to me, for I thirst for you. ³³

- St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta



SUGGESTED READING

Driscoll, Fr. Jeremy. *Awesome Glory: Resurrection in Scripture, Liturgy, and Theology*, 2019.

Driscoll, Fr. Jeremy. *What Happens at Mass*, 2005.

Hahn, Dr. Scott. *The Lamb's Supper: The Mass as Heaven on Earth*, 1999.

33. St. Mother Teresa, "I Thirst for You."