

(3.1) Christ Speaks to the Faithful Soul



*I will listen for what God, the LORD, has to say¹ and directly receive from Him the word of consolation. It was after the tumult of a fire, an earthquake, a strong wind, that Elijah took notice of a light silent sound², recognizing a divine whisper. He understood, as did Samuel, when he said, *Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*³ Both men were rejecting the whispers of the world, the outside voices, but seeking the Truth which lies within.*

The eyes that are closed to outward things while intent on inward things are indeed blessed. And similarly blessed are the ears that attend to the inner whispers of Truth, rejecting the worldly voices of temptations. Blessed are those that meditate on the inward mysteries, and who by daily spiritual discipline strive to make themselves more receptive to heavenly mysteries. Blessed are they that rejoice in their total concern with Godly things as they reject all worldly impediments.

O, my Soul, consider these things and block the entry of sensual desires so that you may hear what our Lord God speaks within you. Your Beloved says, "I am your salvation,"⁴ your life and your peace. Keep yourself within me and my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.⁵

Let go of all transitory things and seek the eternal. Recognize transitory things for what they are, simple seductive snares. And what good are all creatures if you be forsaken by the Creator. *What profit would there be for you to gain the whole world and forfeit your life?*⁶ Therefore, cast off all earthly things and make yourself pleasing to your Creator, so that you may achieve authentic happiness.

This article is based on Book 3, Chapter 1 of Thomas of Kempis' writing, "Imitation of Christ." It is not a translation, and there are many of those, but a personal reflection on his writing; if any of it helps give credit to Thomas of Kempis; if any of it fails the responsibility is mine. (rfm)

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¹ Psalm 85:9

² 1Kings 19:12

³ 1Samel 3:9

⁴ Psalm 35:3

⁵ John 14:27

⁶ Matthew 16:26