



Leaning into the Heart of the Holy

2016 Lenten Devotions

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From *On Religion*

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Your daily life is your temple and your religion.

Whenever you enter into it take with you your all.

Take the plough and the forge and the mallet and the lute,

The things you have fashioned in necessity or for delight.

For in revery you cannot rise above your achievements nor fall lower than your failures.

And take with you all men:

For in adoration you cannot fly higher than their hopes nor humble yourself lower than their despair

And if you would know God be not therefore a solver of riddles.

Rather look about you and you shall see Him playing with your children.

And look into space; you shall see Him walking in the cloud, outstretching His arms in the lightning and descending in rain.

You shall see Him smiling in flowers, then rising and waving His hands in trees.

Prayer:

Holy and ever-present God, reveal yourself more fully to us in each moment of this day, we pray, and help us to be mindful of your presence within and around us. We claim that we travel a life-long journey of faith, but we have learned well to demand a quick fix and expect instant gratification. We sprint through our days—*anxious, hurried, distracted and tired.* We give up easily when the challenges we face require care and perseverance. Teach us, O Lord, to be patient in waiting on your Spirit, to be attentive to the work of renewal you are doing in us and through us, to be persistent in seeking justice for those who are exploited, and to be diligent in showing mercy to those who cannot repay our kindness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

—Elizabeth Edwards

Romans 8:35-39

Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.