

“...to those who give up everything for God, God gives Himself...”

LIFE OF PRAYER

PURGATIVE

Graces of conversion; inspirations, light, sensible fervor, consolations

NIGHT OF SENSE

Infused contemplation begins; passive recollection

ILLUMINATIVE

Prayer of Quiet, Prayer of Union. Effects: less and less distractions, absence of fatigue, extraordinary joy, great generosity, desire for Cross and God's glory.

NIGHT OF SPIRIT

Ecstatic union (crucifying)-Spiritual Espousals, ecstasies, raptures, flight of the spirit. Effects: perfect detachment, immense sorrow for sin, marvelous patience.

UNITIVE

Transforming union or spiritual marriage. Effects: coaction with God, innocence of evil, great security, marvelous strength, cessation of imperfections...

SOUL'S ACTIVITY

Active, discursive meditation, inclination to use of reasoning, forming of convictions

SOUL'S ACTIVITY

Dry, distracted prayer; inclination to loving attentiveness, peace-filled recollection without specific focus.

SOUL'S ACTIVITY

Simplified, affective praise; contemplation/penetration into Divine Mysteries, imitation of Christ in His virtues.

SOUL'S ACTIVITY

Difficult to impossible Experience of “dark” contemplation, described as “oppressive undoing”

SOUL'S ACTIVITY

All of life becomes a prayer. God is the reference for everything. God is now known by participation in His interior life.

TEMPTATIONS

Illusions, inconstancy, overeagerness, scruples (at times), presence of 7 capital sins/imperfections in their spiritual works

TEMPTATIONS

Against faith, hope, chastity, patience, peace of soul, spirit of fornication, blasphemy, confusion. Experiential knowledge of one's own poverty, grows deeper with advance in prayer

TEMPTATIONS

Lukewarmness, complacency, pride, habitual and actual imperfections

TEMPTATIONS

Calls for great courage, vigilance, heroic virtue, holy abandonment

TEMPTATIONS

Demonic influences immobilized at summit of spiritual life. Devil has extraordinary fear of the perfect soul

Prayer, Penance and Mortification are constants throughout the spiritual life as are the practice of the theological virtues of **Faith, Hope and Charity**, though they manifest themselves differently and in more refined forms as one advances in prayer. Same applies to the **Life of Virtue** and the development of the **Gifts of the Holy Spirit** which in turn effect advance in prayer. Advance in prayer entails purification of the whole person: sensory and spiritual: intellect, will, memory, imagination, understanding, appetites, affections, emotions/passions. One cannot attain to the summit of the spiritual life without the gift of infused prayer!