

Practicing His Presence

By Leanne Payne

It is only by remembering that "Another lives in me" that we can die daily to that old, false, usurping self, and that we can continue to be drawn further in and higher up into the life of God. To "practice the Presence" is to continually call to mind this great reality.

Once again we see that the secret is Inca national. One dies to the old self and lives to the new by continuing to receive of the Other Life. Even our prayers, in true prayer, are really His prayers. He speaks to himself through us. And it is the same with all the virtues and all the fruits and gifts of the Spirit. All are equally derivative. We must never forget this, and we must always practice this Holy Presence, even though we can do it only for moments at a first.

This really is the whole of Christianity. Christianity isn't a covenant or a law, but it is a life-it is Another Life being lived in and through us. Our human spirit, when in union with this Holy Other, is the higher self. The "Practice of the Presence" leads to the knowledge of this higher self, and away from either the wrong kind of self-love or self-hatred. It is in this New Life that we find our souls as well as our spirits-indeed, the whole of our nature-raised.

This is why we do not need to fear our intellects, our imaginations, our emotions, our intuitive beings, or own bodies. We simply offer them wholly to God and find them revitalized and redirected. By the principle of the incarnation the Highest is transposed into the lowest, and man finds himself resurrected in every faculty of his being. This is the true, the whole self.

Taken from: THE REAL PRESENCE IN THE WRITINGS OF C.S. LEWIS by

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