

Mens group 8/20/24

Tonight, we started discussing the book "The Practice in the Presence of God" by Brother Lawrence.

What struck most of us was Brother Lawrence's simplicity in his writings and his unfaltering Trust In GOD. As he says, "I will always continue to act for the love of God".

In our daily struggles, we all fall into "sin" or doubt, but Brother Lawrence believed strongly in the Power of God's forgiveness. He had a deep spiritual life and a strong desire to follow Jesus.

Brother Lawrence notes how he only did the "required" prayers a brother needed to do but would talk, pray and give God glory in all his daily activities. He mentioned how we ought to act to God with the greatest simplicity. As Jesus "When you pray, don't babble on and on as the Gentiles do. They think their prayers are answered merely by repeating said words again and again. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask Him...."

Rich mentioned that he considered the words of the tax collector in the temple when he prayed "God, have mercy on me, a sinner." to be one of the simplest and sincere prayers. We can take our lesson from Jesus, who was forever thanking His Father,

He would thank God on a daily basis and try to keep God's presence in his daily life. He admits there are distractions in daily life by one needs to practice on being in the presence of God. It does not come easy as many of us expressed. However, Brother Lawrence did not come to this state easily. It took him years to be at a point where his thoughts were able to get him constantly in the Presence of God.

We are all broken from the fall, and with God's forgiveness we need to come back and give glory to God.

The conversations which are an introduction to the book are from M. Beauford who had these conversations with Brother Lawrence and recommended that the letters between himself and Brother Lawrence be published. Brother Lawrence was like a spiritual director for M. Beauford.

Michael Mack mentions the book "Help, Thanks, Wow" Book by Anne Lamott., and how that title could be our prayer but also to add in "I'm sorry."

To summarize his prayer life, we can take note that Brother Lawrence said "It was a great delusion to think that the times of prayer out to be differ from other times. Also, he says "the time of business does not with me differ from the time of prayer." Amidst all the noise and clatter of life, he was able to praise God as if he were upon his knees in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

For the next meeting which will be Tuesday September 3, we will read the first three letters 1,2 and 3.

Also, **REMEMBER** the time of the meeting will now be 5pm-6pm. One hour earlier start time.