

THE INNER LIFE

A New Sanctuary

Luke 17:21

ουδε ερουσιν ιδου ωδε
 Nor will they say behold here

η ιδου εκει ιδου
 Or behold there behold

γαρ η βασιλεια του θεου εντος υμων εστιν
 For the kingdom of God within you it is

What are some interesting observations from your translation? What do you think it means that 'the kingdom of God is within you?'



“The kingdom of God is within you,” (Luke 17:21), saith the Lord. Turn your whole heart (Joel 2:12) unto the Lord, and forsake this wretched world, in your soul you shall find rest. Learn to despise outward things, and to give yourself to things inward, and you shall perceive the kingdom of God to come in you. For the kingdom of God is .. peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost which is not given to the unholy. Christ will come to you and show you his consolation, if you prepare for him a worthy abode within. All His glory and beauty are from within and there He delights Himself. He often visits the inward man, and has sweet discourse, pleasant solace, much peace, familiarity exceedingly wonderful with him.

O faithful soul, make ready your heart for this Bridegroom, that He may vouchsafe to come and dwell within you! For thus saith He: “If a man love me, he will keep my words .. and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23). Give therefore a place unto Christ, and deny entrance to all others. When you have Christ, you are rich, and have enough. He Himself will be your provider and faithful steward in all things, so that you need not trust in men.

Put all your trust in God (1 Peter 5:7), let Him be your fear and your love. He himself shall answer for you, and will do in the all things what is best for you. Neither shall you ever have rest unless you be most inwardly united unto Christ .. Why do you here look about, since this is not the place of your rest .. Let your meditation be on the most high, and your prayer for mercy directed to Christ without ceasing. A lover of Jesus and of the truth, and a true inward Christian, and one free from unruly affections, can freely turn himself unto God, and lift himself above himself in spirit, and with great profit remain at rest.

He who can live in inwardly, and make small reckoning of things without, neither seeks places, nor waits for times, for the performing of religious exercises. A spiritual man quickly recollects himself, because he never pours out himself wholly to outward things. He’s not hindered by outward labor or business which may be necessary at the time, but as things fall out so he accommodates himself to them .. A man is hindered and distracted in proportion as he draws outward things to himself.

For this cause many things displease and often trouble you, because you are not yet perfectly dead unto yourself, nor separated from all earthly things. Nothing so defiles and entangles the heart of man as the impure love of creatures .. If you refuse to be comforted from without, you’ll be able to contemplate the things in heaven, and often to rejoice with them.

Thomas à Kempis, *Of the Imitation of Christ*, 1460

What are some new insights from Thomas à Kempis thoughts?

Study other Scriptures that teach about this New Kingdom within us.
Joel 2:12, John 14:23, Mark 10:15 What are your observations , insights?

What are some ways that you have been ' hindered and di stracted in proportion' as you have drawn 'outward things' to yourself? How can you 'recollect' yourself and not 'pour' yourself 'wholly to outward things?'

How can you cultivate this new place to enrich your Inner Life this week ?