

# Mother Teresa      On Discipleship & Faith

We will be the happiest people in the world if we belong to God, if we place ourselves at his disposal, if we let him use us as he pleases; belonging to Jesus fully without reservation. He alone is worthy of our love and our total surrender. Then he is free to use us, to do with us whatever he pleases. Ask yourself: is Your love free? is there total surrender to God in your life? Loving trust and total surrender complete each other. Jesus trusted his whole life and his mission into the hands of his Father.

Give yourselves unswervingly to God. Conform yourselves in all things to his glory, to his holy will. Prompt, simple, blind, cheerful obedience to God is the proof of faith.

We must all grow in a clear conviction of our duty to be holy as Jesus is holy. Holiness is one of the most beautiful gifts a human heart can offer to God. We should serve Jesus in his poor by doing for them the things we would like to do for him.

Jesus the Son of God was sent by his Father to proclaim the Good News. He was fully confident that his Father would work out his plan of salvation in spite of the apparent failure of his mission. He was confident even when he saw that people did not accept him. People told him that he was mad, a liar; they slapped him, spat at him, and crucified him. He seemed to be a complete failure. He knew, though, that in spite of all this, the will of his Father would be fulfilled. Do we have that trust?

Do everything for Jesus- the way to follow him- our one necessity. Listen to his words & be occupied with his work. Jesus said, "Thy will be done," & we say the same thing through our obedience to him.

We shall not waste our time in looking for extraordinary experiences in our life of prayer but live by pure faith, ever watchful and ready for his coming by doing our day-to-day ordinary duties with extraordinary love and devotion.

"A sad saint is a bad saint." Joy is a source of power for us. Yes, suffering is unavoidable, so let us suffer cheerfully. The ups and downs of life must come your way, but you must not let yourself be affected by them in your search for sanctity. Don't be surprised at your failure. You must connect every bit of your life with Holy Communion; all of your failures, your weaknesses, your pride, and your misery. See that, in spite of being tempted, you are not conquered.

Loving trust in God implies trust in his almightiness, his infinite wisdom, and his unfailing love. He loves me. I'm not here just to fill a place, just to be a number. He has made me for a purpose. He will fulfill it if I don't Put any obstacle in his way.

Learn to be humble by doing all the humble work and doing it for Jesus. you cannot learn humility from books; you learn it by accepting humiliations, Humiliations are not meant to torture us; they are gifts from God. These little humiliations- if we accept them with joy; will help us to be holy, to have a meek and humble heart like Jesus.

It is not enough to say, "I love." We must put that love into a living action. How? By giving until it hurts. It is not enough to say yes to God when he has called us for himself. It's very important to put that yes into a living, action. How? By our total surrender to him.

Jesus came to teach us: how to love one another, Not big things, but small things with great love. A zeal for souls is both the result and the proof of a true love for God. This is the greatest and the dearest interest of Jesus. Zeal is the test of love, and the test of zeal is complete devotion to his cause. We must spend our life and our energy in the work for souls.

Understand the words of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." Ask yourself, "How has he loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?" Unless this love is among us, we can kill ourselves with work and it will only be work, not love. Work without love is slavery.

Remember three things: total surrender to God, loving trust with each other, joy with all. Then you will be holy like Jesus. Holiness is joy, love, compassion, and especially, humility. A person who is humble and pure is on the way to great holiness. Just as pride cannot enter holiness, so humiliations lead to holiness. True friendship can help you lead a life of holiness.

Our first great responsibility is to be a family, a community, revealing first to one another something of God's own love and concern and tenderness. "See how they love one another." We need to help each other to forget the everyday deficiencies and to start a new life every day in the joy of Jesus.

Love God generously, with trust, without looking back, without fear. Give yourself fully to Jesus. He will use you to accomplish great things if you believe much more in his love than in your weakness.

Be faithful to Christ! Pray for perseverance! Remember that you have been created for greater things. Never stoop lower than that ideal- Let nothing satisfy you but God.

If we are faithful in little practices of love, in little sacrifices, in little interior mortifications; will become more Christlike and build within ourselves the life of holiness. Holiness is only a very high degree of love. Let us all unite in helping each other to become holy.

Obedience, well lived, frees us from selfishness and pride and helps us to find God. In him, we find the whole world. Obedience is a special grace that produces unfailing peace, inward joy, and close union with God. Obedience lived with joy creates a deep awareness of his presence.

We must have a soul that has learned to see and love--even in the least prescriptions- the most holy will of God. We are faithful to the least things, not for their own sake but for the sake of the great things, that is, for the sake of the will of God. If we obey like Jesus, our lives will be pleasing to God and he will say, "This is my beloved child in whom I am well pleased "

If you were to die today, what would others say about you? What was in you that was beautiful, that was Christlike, that helped others to pray better? Face yourself, with Jesus at your side, and do not be satisfied with just any answer.

People would think themselves fortunate if they were given the chance to give personal service to the king of this world. And here we are, able to touch, love, and care for Christ all the days of our lives.

Are we convinced of Christ's love for us and our love for him? We must know Jesus, love Jesus, and serve Jesus. We know him through prayers, meditations, and spiritual duties. We love him through Mass and the sacraments and our intimate union with him. We serve him under the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor and everyone we meet.

Give Jesus whatever he takes and take from him whatever he gives with a big smile. Be a cause of joy to others. Speak well of everybody. Smile at all you meet. Deliberately make three acts of loving kindness every day. Confess any sin against charity. If you offend anyone- even a small child- ask for forgiveness before going to bed.

**Last words of Mother Teresa:** Let our gratitude be our strong resolution to quench the thirst of Jesus by lives of real charity. Love for Jesus in prayer, love for Jesus in your brothers & sisters; love for Jesus in the poorest of the Poor. Nothing else.