

THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The best of all prayers is made by keeping our thoughts always fixed on God.
St. Ignatius Loyola

CONSIDERATIONS

We shall come and take up our abode in them....I in my Father, and you in Me, I in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood, remain in me and I in them.
 John 14:21, 23; John 6:57

God is not far from every one of us, for in God we live, and move and are....Of him and in Him and by Him are all things....For in God were created all things in heaven and on earth...All things were created by God and in God. And God is before all, and by Him all things consist.
 St. Paul [*Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16-17*]

The Holy Ghost dwells in us as the dispenser of charity. The Spirit dwells in us to make us guard the good deposit. God dwell in us as in His temple, and in His absolute domain. He dwells in us as in a sacred sanctuary, which cannot be violated without exposing the violator to the severity of the divine wrath. He dwells in us as the seal and pledge of the glory that is promised us. God dwells in us as the principle of our future resurrection.

St. Paul [*Romans 5:5; Timothy 1:14; 1 Corinthians 6:19*
2 Corinthians 3:16-17; Romans 8:11 etc.]

Are you seeking an elevated place, a holy place? Be yourself the temple of God. You need a temple to pray in? Be yourself the temple of God. Pray in yourself after having taken care to transform yourself into a temple.

St. Augustine

God is in all things, not as a part of their essence, nor as an accident; but as an agent is present to that upon which it works...God is present giving them being, power, operation.

St. Thomas Aquinas



The second point is to consider how God dwells in all creatures, in the elements giving them being, in the plants giving them growth, in animals giving them feeling, and in people giving them understanding, and so in me, giving me being, life, feeling, and causing me to understand.

St. Ignatius Loyola [*Spiritual Exercises*]

There is no need of going up to heaven. Let us enter within ourselves; that suffices. The contrary practice fatigues the mind, distracts the soul and brings in a smaller return. We must adore the Father who is in heaven. But, "where the King is," they say, "there is the court." Therefore, heaven is where God is. Yes it is an indubitable truth that where the divine Majesty is there is found all His glory, as St. Augustine says, and you know that he sought the Lord in diverse places, and found God at last within himself. It is of no slight importance for a soul given to wandering thoughts to realize this truth, and to see that it has no need to go to heaven to speak to the Eternal Father or to enjoy God's company...We are not forced to take wings to find God, but have only to seek solitude and to look within ourselves rather than to withdraw from so kind a Guest.

St. Theresa of Avila [*Way of Perfection 28*]

To keep ourselves in the presence of God and to place ourselves in God's presence are in my opinion two different things. For, to place myself in God's presence I must withdraw my soul from every other object and make it actually attentive to this presence....But after I have placed myself in God's presence, I keep myself there constantly as long as I make acts either of the understanding or of the will toward God, whether I behold God or behold something else for love of God.

St. Francis de Sales