

PEACE OF SOUL is a priceless gift, and it manifests itself in various ways in the Man of God. Peace of Soul makes sombodies out of nobodies by giving them the gift of Sunship, whereas previously they were slaves. It roots out anger, resentments, and hate by overcoming sin; it gives the Man of God faith in other people, whom he now sees as potential sons of God; it improves his health by curing the ills that sprang from his disordered, unhappy, and restless mind; for trials and difficulties, it gives him the aid of Divine Power; it brings him at all times a sense of harmony with the universe; it makes him fretless about the spiritual shortcomings of the world because he is engrossed in seeking his own spritualization; it enables the soul to live in a constant consciousness of God's presence. In business, in the home, in household duties in the factory, all actions are done in the SIGHT OF GOD, all thoughts revolve about God's Almighty Truths! The false accusations, the jealousies, the bitterness, the quarrelsomeness of other men are borne patiently, as our Lord bore them, so that love might reign, and that God might be glorified in the bitter as in the sweet. Dependence on God becomes strength; one no longer fears to undertake good works, knowing God will supply the means. But above all else, with his deep sense of peace, there is the gift of perseverance, which inspires us never to let down our guard, or to shrink from difficulties, or to be depressed, as the soul presses on to its supernal vocation in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

HOWEVER, another effect of complete conversion to God is less pleasant: ONE BECOMES THE TARGET OF OPPOSITION AND HATE. A man can join any sort of movement, group or cult WITHOUT provoking hostile comment from his neighbors and friends. He can even found some strange cult of his own, and he will be tolerated as a citizen exercising his legitimate freedom and satisfying his own religious needs. BUT AS SOON AS SOMEONE JOINS THE CHURCH - ESPECIALLY TODAY WHEN HE INSISTS ON LIVING THE FAITH GIVEN TO HIM BY HIS FOREFATHERS - - hatred and opposition soon appear. This is because his friends intuitively know that such a one no longer shares the spirit of the world, and that he is now governed by SPIRIT; that he is lifted into a truly supernatural order; that he is united with DIVINITY in a SPECIAL WAY. This kind of life IS A CHALLENGE TO THE MAN OF THE WORLD. THIS KIND OF LIFE IS A CHALLENGE TO A MAN WHO PREFERS TO LIVE A WATERED DOWN RELIGIOUS BELIEF. THIS KIND OF LIFE IS A CHALLENGE TO A MAN WHO IS INDIFFERENT TO THE VERY REAL PLACE OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF THE WORLD: THIS KIND OF LIFE IS A REPROACH TO THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE THE BEST OF TWO WORLDS!

HOW can an ungodly world? - how can a watered down religion receive with kindness and understanding matters that pertain only to the soul of man? Is it any wonder that a stricter religion---a well disciplined religion---a religion that dared to stand up for what it knows to be right and correct, is met with defiance, hatred, vilification, persecution and unremitting attacks? Whenever the VOICE is heard, wherever the PRESENCE is felt, there is such violent opposition as has been promised: "But because you are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

As a consequence of this opposition to Christ, those who know a Man of God, invoke a thousand far-fetched explanations to avoid the true reason - namely, THE APPEAL OF DIVINITY. The presence of such a one in society is explained as a phenomenon of adolescence; in the slightly older folk, it is blamed on a disappointment in love; the mature people are called guilty of mental aberration due to change of life; the old ones are accused of senility or nostalgia; in the unlearned, it is due to ignorance; in the learned, it causes raised eyebrows and reflection.

It is this FEAR of provoking the enmity of the world, FEAR of criticism, FEAR of the attacks of co-religionists (the ?God-fearing? - ?OBEDIENT? ones who have fallen prey to the easy life of an easy religion) which is a real source of discouragement, to the really good people, and frightens them from becoming MEN OF GOD, and it is these good souls who are frustrated, and who sometimes become embittered and lose peace of soul. In such circumstances it is easy to see how Our Blessed Lord, indeed, brought a sword, causing division among men. BUT HE ALSO BROUGHT PEACE, AND THIS PEACE RECOMPENSES THOSE WHO, APPARENTLY GIVING UP EVERYTHING, FIND ALL THAT IS!!!