

“My Father is at work until
now, and I am at work
as well” (Jn 5:17)

In the encounter of love that is mental prayer, God is the principal actor. That is why we must begin by believing that his love is eager to respond to our expectations, and why we must offer ourselves to its action.

Why thrash about so much, as if the value of prayer were measured entirely by our efforts? God’s love encompasses us, and presses upon us from all sides. We need only open all the doors and windows of our being.

11 *Believing in the Sun*—Mental prayer is the work of God with the cooperation of man, and not the reverse. What we must do, is surrender the depths of our being to God’s action.

12 *The fable of the violin and the violinist*—Mark the Evangelist says of Jesus, facing the rich young man: “Jesus looked at him with love” (Mk 10:21). That is true for each one of us. To pray is to become aware of this look of love, and to offer ourselves to its purifying and regenerative power.

13 *“He looked at him with love”* (Mk 10:21)—God looks at us, because he is thinking about us. He looks at us with love, because he thinks of us with love. He has been doing this from all eternity. This thought of God is what brought us into being and maintains us. It is this thought, too, that will call into being the unique saint that each of us is called to become, if we do not resist him.

14 *If God stopped thinking about me*—Could our sinfulness make the Lord turn his eyes away from us? Certainly not, since it is not our holiness that attracts his love. Indeed, it is his love that makes pure, alive, and holy the one who believes in him with unshakable faith.

15 *“I will become a torrent”*—This love from which no being is excluded is not, however, an impersonal love poured out indiscriminately on all humans. God loves each of his children with a unique love.

16 *Because I’m Agnes*—That is why he wants to be actively responsible for us.

17 *I take you in my care*—Through our prayers of petition, we go out to meet his love, impatient to work for our happiness and our holiness.

18 *You are asking me too timidly*—We must reject all timidity, and approach him with the boldness of a child who knows that he is loved, infinitely loved, and dares believe everything and hope for everything.

19 *Filial assurance*—What makes our prayer all-powerful with God Almighty, is that it is the work of the Holy Spirit himself acting within us.

20 *“Abba, Father!”*