

Those Who Endeavor to Injure Us Are to Be Loved and Welcomed as the Hand of God.

by Francois Fenelon

We should love and welcome those who endeavor to injure us as the hand of God, and strive to maintain humility and silence in the face of criticism.

Scripture: Matthew 5:44, 2 Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 4:7, James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6

Topics: "Loving Enemies", "Spiritual Growth"

Description

Francois Fenelon preaches about the importance of loving and welcoming those who try to harm us, seeing them as instruments of God's hand in our lives. He emphasizes the need for God's Spirit to sustain us in difficulties and to help us remain humble and peaceful under trials. Fenelon encourages seeking God's mercy for those who seek to injure us, recognizing that God often touches our most sensitive areas to bring about growth and transformation.

Transcript

LETTER XVI.

Those who endeavor to injure us are to be loved and welcomed as the hand of God.

I sympathize, as I ought, in all your troubles, but I can do nothing else except pray God that He would console you. You have great need of the gift of his Spirit to sustain you in your difficulties, and to restrain your natural vivacity under the trials which are so fitted to excite it. As to the letter touching your birth, I think you should lay it before God alone, and beg his mercy upon him who has sought to injure you.

I have always perceived, or thought that I perceived, that you were sensitive on that point. God always attacks us on our weak side; we do not aim to kill a person by striking a blow at his insensible parts, such as the hair or nails, but by endeavoring to reach at once the noble organs, the immediate seats of life. When God would have us die to self, he always touches the tenderest spot, that which is fullest of life. It is thus that he distributes crosses. Suffer yourself to be humbled. Silence and peace under humiliation are the true good of the soul; we are tempted, under a thousand specious pretexts, to speak humbly; but it is far better to be humbly silent. The humility that can yet talk, has need of careful watching; self-love derives comfort from its outward words.

Do not suffer yourself to get excited by what is said about you. Let the world talk; do you strive to do the will of God; as for that of men, you could never succeed in doing it to their satisfaction, and it is not worth the pains. A moment of silence, of peace, and of union to God, will amply recompense you for every calumny that shall be uttered against you. We must love our fellows, without expecting friendship from them; they leave us and return, they go and come; let them do as they will; it is but a feather, the sport of the wind. See God only in them; it is He that afflicts or consoles us, by means of them, according as we have need.

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