

A Good Infection

And now, what does it all matter? It matters more than anything else in the world. The whole dance, or drama, or pattern of this three-Personal life is to be played out in each one of us: or (putting it the other way round) each one of us has got to enter that pattern, take his place in that dance. There is no other way to the happiness for which we were made. Good things as well as bad, you know, are caught by a kind of infection. If you want to get warm you must stand near the fire: if you want to be wet you must get into the water. If you want joy, power, peace, eternal life, you must get close to, or even into, the thing that has them. They are not a sort of prize which God could, if He chose, just hand out to anyone. They are a great fountain of energy and beauty spurting up at the very centre of reality. If you are close to it, the spray will wet you: if you are not, you will remain dry. Once a man is united to God, how could he not live forever? Once a man is separated from God, what can he do but wither and die?

Devotional by: C.S. Lewis

Book: Mere Christianity

Psalm 76

- (1) In Judah God is known;
his name is great in Israel.
- (2) His abode has been established in Salem,
his dwelling place in Zion.
- (3) There he broke the flashing arrows,
the shield, the sword, and the weapons of war. Selah
- (4) Glorious are you, more majestic
than the mountains full of prey.
- (5) The stouthearted were stripped of their spoil;
they sank into sleep;
all the men of war
were unable to use their hands.
- (6) At your rebuke, O God of Jacob,
both rider and horse lay stunned.
- (7) But you, you are to be feared!
Who can stand before you
when once your anger is roused?
- (8) From the heavens you uttered judgment;
the earth feared and was still,
- (9) when God arose to establish judgment,
to save all the humble of the earth. Selah
- (10) Surely the wrath of man shall praise you;
the remnant of wrath you will put on like a belt.
- (11) Make your vows to the Lord your God and perform them;
let all around him bring gifts
to him who is to be feared,
- (12) who cuts off the spirit of princes,
who is to be feared by the kings of the earth.