

Mother Teresa

Job 13:15

“Though he slay me, yet will I hope in him; I will surely defend my ways to his face.”
(NIV)

In 2007, previously unpublished letters from Mother Teresa were published in a book entitled *Come Be My Light*. These letters showed a profound spiritual darkness and doubt that accompanied this saint throughout her life. On the surface, it would appear that exposing the doubt of one of the premiere religious figures of our day should be a threat to the viability of faith in our world. However, for those who have looked deeply into the bible and the history of Christian spirituality, her inner struggle was not negation of faith but proof of the power of faith. As described in the follow passage, Mother Teresa’s darkness and doubt were the doorway to her work with the poor that she is revered for today.

JDB

The condition of the poor on Calcutta’s streets, rejected by all and abandoned to their pain, was, she claimed, “the true picture of my own spiritual life.” She had reached the point of complete identification with “her people,” with their misery, loneliness, and rejection.

She too felt unwanted- not by people who needed her, but by the One who meant more to her than life, her God. She too felt unloved- not by the multitude that flocked around her, but by God whom she loved with all the powers of her soul. She too felt unclaimed- not by the poor who found a mother in her, but by God, the child of whose love she claimed to be.

Her interior darkness gave Mother Teresa the capacity to comprehend the feelings of the poor. “The greatest evil is the lack of love and charity, the terrible indifference towards one’s neighbor who lives at the roadside assaulted by exploitation, corruption, poverty and disease,” she would later say...

Without her interior darkness, without knowing such a longing for love and the pain of being unloved, and without this radical identification with the poor, Mother Teresa would not have won over their trust and their hearts to the extent she did.

Mother Teresa’s suffering was at the deepest possible level: that of her relationship with God... as a consequence, her darkness became her greatest blessing; her “deepest secret” was indeed her greatest gift.

Come Be My Light

Point of Prayer:

How has God turned your pain into a source of another’s blessing? How has another’s pain become the source of your blessing?