

To Live With the Spirit

by Jessica Powers, aka Sister Miriam of the Holy Spirit (1905-1988)

1 To live with the Spirit of God is to be a listener.
2 It is to keep the vigil of mystery,
3 earthless and still.
4 One leans to catch the stirring of the Spirit,
5 strange as the wind's will.

6 The soul that walks where the wind of the Spirit blows
7 turns like a wandering weather-vane toward love.
8 It may lament like Job or Jeremiah,
9 echo the wounded hart, the mateless dove.
10 It may rejoice in spaciousness of meadow
11 that emulates the freedom of the sky.

12 Always it walks in waylessness, unknowing;
13 it has cast down forever from its hand
14 the compass of the whither and the why.

15 To live with the Spirit of God is to be a lover.
16 It is becoming love, and like to Him
17 toward Whom we strain with metaphors of creatures:
18 fire-sweep and water-rush and the wind's whim.
19 The soul is all activity, all silence;
20 and though it surges Godward to its goal,
21 it holds, as moving earth holds sleeping noonday,
22 the peace that is the listening of the soul.