

To the wonderful people of GA

As I closed down my workplace in consideration of the pandemic, I ran across a writing from St. Catherine of Sienna as she recorded the words that Jesus spoke to her. I kept these four paragraphs in front of me during both Lent and my time off. I have found within them fertile ground for spiritual growth and self-knowledge. What I discovered here is not bound by the borders of Lent or lack of employment. So I pass them on to you for consideration. Hopefully you will find in them something to keep for your own . . . as I have.

As you read them I suggest two things you might look for: how God made us, and what God sees in us.

Why God allows the Devil to tempt us

St. Catherine of Siena reports that Our Lord said to her:

“I’ve appointed the Devil to tempt and to trouble My creatures in this life. I’ve done this, not so that My creatures will be overcome, but so that *they* may overcome, proving their virtue and receiving from Me the glory of victory. And no one should fear any battle or temptation of the Devil that may come to him, because I’ve made My creatures strong, and I’ve given them strength of will, fortified in the Blood of My Son.

Neither the Devil nor any other creature can control this free will, because it’s yours, given to you by Me. By your own choice, then, you can hold it or let go of it as you please. It’s a weapon, and if you place it in the hands of the Devil, it right away becomes a knife that he’ll use to stab and kill you.

On the other hand, if you don’t place this knife that is our will into the hands of the Devil — that is, if you don’t consent to his temptations and harassments — you will never be injured by the guilt of sin in any temptation. Instead, you’ll actually be strengthened by the temptation, as long as you open the eyes of your mind to see My love, and to understand why I allowed you to be tempted: so you could develop virtue by having it proved.

My love permits these temptations, for the Devil is weak. He can do nothing by himself unless I allow him. So I let him tempt you because I love you, not because I hate you. I want you to conquer, not to be conquered, and to come to a perfect knowledge of yourself and of Me.”

Be strong as God has made us. Be not conquered, but conquer.

God’s blessing to you all in these times of new thought and awakenings.
Deacon Bob