

Carmelite Book Club

Searching for and Maintaining Peace

by Father Jacques Philippe

Week 4 | Part III: What the Saints Tell Us

For meeting schedule tips, please see “Week 1”.

“If we could, with a single interior glance, see all the goodness and mercy that exists in God’s designs for each one of us, even in what we call disgraces, pains and afflictions, our happiness would consist in throwing ourselves into the arms of the Divine Will, with the abandon of a young child that throws himself into the arms of his mother.” ~ St. Marie of the Incarnation

“It is necessary to forget oneself and continually direct one’s soul toward God and leave it calmly and peacefully before Him.” ~ St. Francois-Marie-Jacob Libermann

“Peace is born of humility.” ~ St. Francis de Sales

Summary:

The saints help us to understand more clearly how peace leads us directly toward Heaven, as it nurtures love of God and neighbor in our souls. Their words and example show us that true peace is found in God through total abandonment to His will. Also, growth in true humility is essential to peace.

Reflection Questions

1. Is there anything in this section which particularly struck me?
2. Why is it so important to live in the present, avoiding inordinate concern over the past and the future?
3. What is one insight from one of the saints that builds upon something shared by Fr. Jacques Philippe in an earlier section?

