

"Let me read you a history which will give you to see how God receives with love the poor sinner who comes to Him with true repentance. You do not realise the greatness of the love which is in the heart of God."

And verse after verse, I read to him all the history of the prodigal son, which is recounted in the 15th chapter of Luke's gospel.

The grace of God works by means of His word. My poor listener recognized himself, in the prodigal son who had left his father's house and had fallen into the grossest sins. He knew by experience what was meant by the "great famine," and what, coming to himself, meant.

"And have you not got a step farther," I asked him. "Is there not in your heart a great desire to return to God the Father. Can you not also say: 'I will arise and go to my father?'"

He hesitated a moment and then said:

"Yes, I believe that I can say it."

"Let us then go a little farther, and consider how the father acts towards the repentant son."

I read slowly: "But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him."

I looked at him. It was apparent that every word had produced a profound impression upon him. Tears coursed down his cheeks. "Is it possible?" he cried. "SUCH LOVE!"

As soon as the heart of the poor captive was able to place its confidence in the love of God.

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