

alone can perfectly comfort and help me. Thou knowest what good things I stand most in need of, and how poor I am in virtues.

2. Behold, I stand before thee poor and naked, calling for grace, and craving mercy. Refresh thy hungry beggar, inflame my coldness with the fire of thy love, enlighten my blindness with the brightness of thy presence. Turn all earthly things to me into bitterness, all things grievous into patience, all created things into contempt and oblivion.

Lift up my heart to thee in heaven, and suffer me not to wander upon earth. Be thou only sweet unto me from henceforth for evermore.

For thou only art my meat and my drink, my love and my joy, my sweetness, and all my good.

3. O that with thy presence thou wouldest wholly inflame, and transform me into thyself: that I might be made one spirit with thee, by the grace of inward union, and by the meltings of ardent love! Suffer me not to go from thee hungry and thirsty; but deal mercifully with me, as thou hast often dealt wonderfully with thy saints.

What marvel is it, if I should be wholly inflamed by thee, and die to myself? Since thou art a fire always burning, and never decaying, love purifying the heart, and enlightening the understanding!

CHAPTER XV.

Of fervent Love and vehement Desire to receive Christ.

THE VOICE OF THE DISCIPLE.

WITH great devotion, and ardent love, with the affection and fervour of my whole heart, I desire