



What God Wants for Us

•Week 3

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Consolations and Desolations

Some Common Experiences of Consolation

- Confidence in God and in the love of God for the world & for me
- A deepening or strengthening of that confidence
- An appreciation of my life as a gift of God
- A sense that people or events are places where I meet God—an *epiphany*.
- A movement of love or desire toward God.
- An attraction to a greater good.
- An experience of being at peace or in harmony with God, others and myself.
- An awareness of being a sinner in light of God's forgiveness
- Rejoicing in weakness according to the description of St. Paul in II Cor. 12
- A felt sense of inner freedom or personal liberation.
- A desire to love and serve others in the name of Jesus
- A longing to be part of the struggle for God's reign
- A readiness to follow Jesus even to the cross
- A felt knowledge of God's presence in creation and history

Some Common Experiences of Desolation

- A sense that one's life is empty and meaningless
- A state of self-hatred or self-disgust
- A weakening or loss of confidence in God and God's love, with a resulting feeling of profound discouragement
- A movement of love or desire which takes us away from God
- A sense of love or desire that takes us away from God
- A sense of being at odds with God and oneself
- A time when God feels absent
- Being trapped in a cycle of remorse and guilt at one's sinfulness
- An inability to accept or trust in God's forgiveness

- A reluctance our unwillingness to love and serve other in the name of Christ
- An aversion from whatever has to do with the reign of God
- An experience of being un-free, of being paralyzed by anxiety, fear, attachments, addiction
- A sense that God is absent from the world and from the events of one's life

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