

his conscious awareness he is not aware of either. True Humility is a return to the beautiful simplicity of childhood. The little child is busy-busy-busy doing things, and has no time or inclination to think of what he can do or cannot do. The humble soul happily realizes, and with PEACE in his heart accepts, the fact that he has nothing which he did not receive from his loving Father. He asks for nothing more. The humble and wise man closes his eyes to any good he may have ever done. He goes to his God, as to his Savior, with gratitude in his heart and mind, mindful of his total poverty, and relies completely on His mercy.

The truth is that we do not understand the value of our poverty. We do not understand the value of our own weakness. We want to be conscious of our strength, and great is our feeling of exhilaration when our strength is brought to our attention by others. It pleases us to know that others know of our strength. We want to do great things – FOR GOD, so we tell ourselves – and we want others to know the great things we have done “FOR GOD”! We want others to know that of great things needed to be done, WE are here to do them – WE are the ones to do them! In so thinking we alienate God and lose the help that He would otherwise be so happy to give us. God might be heard to say: “If you feel so sure of your own abilities, you don’t need Me!” What a condemnation! Yet, as we look around us, Man’s feeling of his own competencies – in today’s world as well as in the Church – is bringing down on us all God’s disregard. In the overwhelming crisis in the Catholic Church today, the very thought “To restore all things ...” has placed us in the miserable and false position of thinking that WE are going to set things straight once again. Is it any wonder, therefore, that we see the crumbling of our Holy Church and Religion becoming worse and worse? It is our emptiness and poverty and thirst that God is looking for, not our apparent plentitude. The right attitude for man to have in any work he takes up to do, the right attitude we must have if we ever expect to see any sort of restoration, is that of St. Paul: “Gladly will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of God may dwell in me.” SO LONG AS WE GLORY IN OUR OWN COMPETENCE, OUR IMPOTENCE WILL SHOW THROUGH! The wise man prefers to be conscious only of his weakness, and even tries to be glad when others perceive it, FOR THEN THE GLORY OF HIS WORKS BELONGS TO GOD AND NOT TO HIMSELF. He has no wish to do great things, but rather to LOVE God greatly and to do little things well; and since he only seeks to please the God he LOVES so much, he is indifferent to what others may think of his achievements (and failings). Such a man has no regard for any store of merit and virtues he himself may possess, because his whole security is in the love and mercy of God. Even though he works for, and