

Temp I

Study Questions for Meeting 7 and 8

From Garrigou-Lagrange
The Three Ages of the Interior Life, Part 3—The Illuminative Way of Proficients

Chapter 2: Entrance into the Illuminative Way

1. Why is a second conversion necessary (give two reasons)?
2. What are some of the ways prayer protects us from this temptation to "unconscious egoism" and a loss of the sense "of the grandeur of the theological virtues [and] of the importance of humility"?
3. Father Garrigou-Lagrange closes this section by saying "Intimate conversation with God, which is the basis of the interior life, will gradually take the place of conversation with ourselves." Describe how you usually go about your regular time of mental prayer. Do you have a particular method? Are there insights you have received that you could share?

8. How do the Gifts of the Holy Spirit connect with this stage of passive purification?

a. Gift of Knowledge

b. Gift of Fear of the Lord

c. Gift of Fortitude

d. Gift of Understanding

Chapter 5: Conduct to be Observed in the Night of the Senses

9. What four rules does St. John of the Cross direct those in the night of the senses to follow?

10. For what purpose/to what end does God permit the specific temptations against chastity and patience in the soul of the one passing through the night of the senses?

11. In knowing oneself more truly, what does the soul learn about God?

Ch. 6: The Spiritual Age of Proficients: Principal Characteristics

12. Why is this period of the interior life called the “illuminative way?”

13. How does the knowledge of God gained in this period differ from knowledge gained from books?