



The Slow Work of God

Focusing

Scripture

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground and would sleep and rise, night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.

The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come. (*Mark 4:26-29*)

Meditation

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are, quite naturally,
Impatient in everything to reach the end without delay....
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown,
Something new.
And yet it is the law of all progress
That it is made by passing through some stages of instability...
And that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually;
Let them grow, let them shape themselves,
Without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
As though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own goodwill)
will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
Gradually forming within you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of your believing
That his hand is leading you,
And of your accepting the anxiety
Of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete
(Teilhard de Chardin)

Quiet Prayer/Shared Reflection

Concluding Prayer

We thank you, Lord
For our enthusiasm to get things done
And to achieve results.
We thank you for the energy of our commitment.

But we ask you, Lord,
To imbue our dedicated hearts
With a spirit of patience and endurance
That corresponds to the gradual way
In which your reign is realized among us.

May this patient spirit save us
From restlessness, agitation and frustration in our work
And yield in us instead the peace of heart
That frees us to see the fruits of your Spirit in our midst.

We ask this through Jesus your Son who,
In the power of the Spirit,
Reigns at your right hand for ever and ever. Amen.