

Dying to Self

When you are forgotten or neglected
or purposely set at naught,
and you don't sting or hurt
with the insult or the oversight,
but your heart is happy,
being counted worthy to suffer for Christ
—that is dying to self.

When your good is evil spoken of,
when your wishes are crossed,
your advice disregarded
or your opinions ridiculed,
and you refuse to let anger rise in your heart
or even to defend yourself,
but take it all in patient, loving silence
—that is dying to self.

When you lovingly, patiently
bear any disorder and irregularity,
any impunctuality or any annoyance—
when you come face to face with waste, folly,
extravagance, spiritual insensibility—
and endure it as Jesus endured it
—that is dying to self.

When you are content with any food,
any offering, any raiment, any climate, any society,
any solitude, any interruption by the will of God
—that is dying to self.

When you never refer to your self in conversation,
or to record your own good works,
or itch after commendation,
when you can truly love to go unknown
—that is dying to self.

When you can see your brother or sister
have his or her needs met
and can honestly rejoice in spirit
and can feel no envy nor question God,
while your own needs are far greater
and in more desperate circumstances
—that is dying to self.

When you can receive correction and reproof
from one of less stature than yourself
and can humbly submit
inwardly as well as outwardly,
finding no rebellion or resentment
rising up within your heart
—that is dying to self.

by Bill Britton

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