

Lenten Study 2024: Searching for and Maintaining Peace by Father Jacques Philippe

Week 1: vii-p 7; Week 2: Section 1.2–1.7 (p7-20); Week 3: Section 2.1-2.8 (p20-45); Week 4: Section 2.9-2.18 (p2.8-2.18)

Adult Faith Contact: faithstudy@hspalmyra.com

Week 2: Doing vs Abiding and Fighting a Spiritual Battle

Ice Breaker (5-10 mins)

Relaxation Exercise: (5-10 mins)

Contemplate: (5 mins) ¹ [a]“I am the true vine,^[b] and my Father is the vine grower. ² He takes away every branch in me that does not bear fruit, and every one that does he prunes^[c] so that it bears more fruit. ³ You are already pruned because of the word that I spoke to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I remain in you. Just as a branch cannot bear fruit on its own unless it remains on the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. ⁶ [d]Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. (John 15: 1-6)

Discuss:

1. Consider John 15: 4 above. Notice the words “remain in.” Discuss how these images describe the act of abiding vs clinging to.
2. How does abiding in God change what spiritual battles you encounter, and further, how does it change which spiritual battles you choose to fight?
3. When the soldiers came for Jesus in the garden he told the disciples: “Put your sword back into its sheath, for all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot call upon my Father and he will not provide me at this moment with more than twelve legions of angels?” Matthew 26: 52-53. How do you petition the saints and other intercessors? Share with the group your favorites to call on for yourself or others.

Think About:

p109-110: St. Padre Pio – “If such reproaches and remorse humble us and make us quick to do the right thing, without taking away our confidence in God, we may be assured that they come from God. However, if they confuse us and make us fearful, distrustful, lazy or slow to do the right thing, we may be sure that they come from the devil and we should consequently push them aside, finding our refuge in confidence in God.”

- How does seeking refuge in God change the disposition of your soul?
- How does this change equip you with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:11-17)
-

Journal: Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit”; and when he had said this he breathed his last. (Luke 22: 46). Where are the areas in your life where you are coping out of fear? Write about the ways this area has the potential to be transformed this Lenten season?