

**GOD SHALL PROVIDE HIMSELF A LAMB (Gen. 22:8)
BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD WHO TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD (John 1:29)**



LOWLY -- No defense. Never defended himself.
No resentment, no grudges, no bitterness.
(Matt. 11:29; Isa. 53:7)

ABANDON --No schemes or plans for helping
Himself out of difficulties. Dependent.
(John 6:38; Luke 23:46)

MERCY/GRACE -- No rights. Yielded rights,
including reputation and every human liberty
due Him. (2 Cor. 8:9; 2 Cor. 5:21)

BLOOD -- No resistance. Slain for our sins. His
blood atones. Jesus became our scapegoat.
(1 Pet. 1:19; Heb. 9:14)



...Learn of me for I am meek and lowly of heart, and
ye shall find rest unto your souls. (Matt. 11:29)

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ
Jesus. (Phil. 2:5)

By which are given unto us exceeding great and
precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers
of the divine nature.... (2 Pet. 1:4)

...always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord
Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest
in our body. (2 Cor. 4:10)



**THOU ART WORTHY...,
FOR THOU WAST SLAIN, AND HAS REDEEMED US TO GOD BY THY BLOOD
OUT OF EVERY KINDRED, AND TONGUE, AND PEOPLE, AND NATION. (REV. 5:9)**

L-A-M-B

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls (Matt. 11:29, KJV).

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth (Is. 53:7, NASB).

For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me (John 6:38, NASB).

And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into Thy hands I commit (entrust) My Spirit." And having said this, He breathed His last (Luke 23:46, NASB).

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich (2 Cor. 8:9, NASB).

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21, NIV).

...but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect (1 Pet. 1:19, NIV).

...how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God... (Heb. 9:14, NASB).

...to whom God willed to make known what is the riches [resources] of the glory of this mystery...which is Christ in you ("Lamb in Ewe"), the hope of glory (Col. 1:27, NASB).

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8, KJV).

GRACE for the Rest of Your Life

THE L-A-M-B

GRACE PERSONIFIED: Dependence on the Father; Defining Divine Nature; Christ in the Believer; Believer's Dependence on Christ

Dependence on the Father

Jesus was the original LAMB — even before the foundation of the world, “...*The Lamb slain from the foundation of the world*” (Rev. 13:8). In the Book of Revelation the LAMB is mentioned 28 times. From the foundation of the world, in Genesis, to the end of the world, in Revelation, God uses the symbol of a lamb. The lamb symbol could be considered BOOKENDS!

Jesus lived a life of dependence on His Father, “*Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works*” (Jn. 14:10). “*I and my Father are One*” (Jn. 10:30). He wants that same relationship to be between us and the Lord Jesus, “...*That they may be one, just as We are one*” (Jn. 17:22b). He desires that we depend on Him as He depends on His Father.

Sheep are **dependent** creatures—created that way by the Great Designer. Sheep were designed to depend on a shepherd. They need a shepherd; they need someone to watch over them and care for them. Sheep cannot exist without a shepherd. Most animals have some kind of an offense or a defense, no matter what their size. An elephant can stomp out anything with its strength, or a little bee can attack and sting. A rabbit can run and hide; a turtle can hide in its shell; porcupines imbed their quills in their victim; and skunks are very offensive. Animals were created with some independent means to protect themselves—but not sheep. Sheep were designed to depend on a shepherd. The sheep's only defense is the shepherd.

Many times we talk about sheep being ‘stupid,’ and we despair of them because they easily get into trouble. However, let's avoid the word ‘stupid’ for sheep. Let's remember to use the word **dependent**. God made them that way on purpose—according to His design!

Introducing the Passover L-A-M-B

Let's start at the top of the card. God promised Abraham, “*God shall provide for Himself a lamb*” (Gen. 22:8). When Jesus came on the scene, John the Baptist said, “*Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world*” (Jn. 1:29).

In the Old Testament, the Lord provided a lamb to be the substitute for sin being taken away temporarily. Thousands and millions of lambs had to be slain throughout the corridors of time, until Jesus became the sacrificial lamb—the Passover Lamb. “*For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us*” (1 Cor. 5:7b). “*So Christ also, having been offered ONCE to bear the sins of many...*” (Heb. 9:28). “*But with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ*” (1 Pet. 1:19).

Throughout the Old Testament, once a year the high priest symbolically placed the nation's sins on the scapegoat (Lev. 16:7-38). He then sent the goat into the wilderness;

the sin was covered for that year (Heb. 10:1). People could go back and start all over again with a clean slate.

After a while people started to think, “What if that goat turns around and comes back into the village with all our sins?” They started to fear. They made a plan. From that time on, they would always take the scapegoat to the edge of a cliff. The priests would symbolically place all the nation’s sins on it, and then push the scapegoat over the cliff, saying, “*Tetelestai*,” which means, “It is finished.” This is also what Jesus said on the cross, “*Tetelestai*,” meaning, “*It is finished*” (Jn. 19:30). (From: *Shofar Magazine*)

If you have ever been a victim of anything, or if you have had to bear someone else’s sins or wrongs, you know what heaviness it is. It really hurts! Could you imagine the whole world’s sins on you like that? The weight of the sin of the whole world was what Jesus bore. He entrusted His soul to God at that time. “*And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice said, ‘Father, into Thy hands I commend (entrust) my Spirit’*” (Lk. 23:46).

Do not ever think that you are too bad to come, because remember He already bore your sins for you. He already took your sins upon Himself, “*Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed*” (1 Pet. 2:24). He was the Last LAMB—Once for all!

Defining Divine Nature

Philippians 2 speaks of Jesus emptying Himself and becoming a man. Let’s look at Him as not only becoming a man, but becoming a particular kind of man. What would you think of if you thought of a lamb kind of man. A lamb kind of man would be gentle, meek and lowly (Matt. 11:28-29).

Note the acrostic: L-A-M-B

(L)—LOWLY. Lambs are very lowly, dependent creatures. They have no defenses. Compare this with Jesus’ nature. He never defended Himself. His was a Lamb nature. You do not usually hear football teams called Lambs. You hear of Rams, Cowboys and Broncos. As symbols of countries, for example, the United States boasts the eagle; Russia, the bear; England, the lion. Note how symbols represent the strength and aggressiveness of these nations? Now if Heaven had a symbol, what would that symbol be? It is the LAMB. God is trying to show us His nature. Remember when Jesus was on trial before Pilate; He made no defense at all. Isaiah 53:7 says, “*Like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth.*” He had no resentment, no grudges, no bitterness. On the cross He said, “*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do*” (Lk. 23:34).

(A)—ABANDON. He abandoned Himself to His Father to give the direction in His life. He never Himself took the initiative in anything. All the initiative came from the Father for what He was to do. Throughout His whole earthly life, He constantly checked in, “What next, Lord? What next, Lord?” Even at His crucifixion, He could have called ten thousand angels, but He did not (Matt. 26:53). He did not because He wanted to be that LAMB, the final LAMB to take away the sins of the world. He never had schemes or plans for helping Himself out of difficulties. He totally abandoned Himself to His Father and waited for the Father to do His work. “*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me*” (Jn. 6:38).

(M)—MERCY or GRACE. He yielded every right that He had including His reputation and every human liberty due Him. He also had no conflict of interests. *“I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me”* (Jn. 5:30). Jesus had no personal interests of His own. That is why He could judge righteously. In every situation He could make the right judgment, because it was never selfish. Since He was here, not to do His own will, only to do His Father’s will, He had no conflict of interests.

Illustration: One of the evangelists of half a century ago, W.H. Mackay, used to illustrate the following truth: “When we used to ride the train, there were three choices: we could have first class, second class, third class.” He said, “Now the first class passengers could have access to the whole train, they paid for their ticket and they could have full access. Second class could have access to second class, not first class, of course, second class and third. And then third class only got third class, and that’s as far as the third class passenger could go.” So to put it in this context, “Though Jesus was a first class passenger, He became third class so we through His third ‘classiness’ could become first class.”

“He made him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Cor. 5:21). *“For you know the GRACE of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich”* (2 Cor. 8:9).

Tradeoffs: Jesus.....for us

knew no sin.....became sin - 2 Cor. 5:21

was rich.....became poor - 2 Cor. 8:9

worthy of being served.....came not to be served but to serve - Mk. 10:45

blameless.....became the ultimate scapegoat - Heb. 9:14

(B)—BLOOD. He shed His blood—*“without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin”* (Heb. 9:22). He was slain for our sins, His blood atones, He became our scapegoat, as we mentioned. Peter speaks of, *“the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect”* (1 Pet. 1:19). That is the kind of lamb that had to be chosen. He was without blemish, without defect. And then Hebrews 9:14 shows the Trinity in the crucifixion, in the whole story of Calvary. *“How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God...”*

“The word LAMB must mean to us not only a sacrifice, the shedding of blood; but the meekness of God incarnate upon earth, represented in the meekness and gentleness of a little lamb.” (J. Sidlow Baxter)

Look closer on the head of the lamb. We see a dove, which represents the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit does not glorify Himself. The dove is small. The Holy Spirit glorifies the LAMB; He makes Him the central figure. *“He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said, that He takes of Mine, and will disclose it to you”* (Jn. 16:14-15). Our focus is on HIM—JESUS – the LAMB.

Christ in Believers

Note the human representative with the lamb inside—bottom right on visual. This is “*Christ in you the hope of glory*,” from Colossians 1:27. You may write under the visual, “LAMB in EWE.” Also in Colossians 3:4, Paul says, “*Christ Who is our Life*.”

Let’s read that whole passage in Colossians 1:27-29, “*To whom God willed to make known what is the riches [resources] of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is Christ in you. (In order to remember Christ in you, remember ‘L-A-M-B in E-W-E’), the hope of glory, and we proclaim Him admonishing everyone and teaching every man with all wisdom that we may present every man complete in Christ, and for this purpose I also labor, striving according to His power which mightily works within me.*”

It is not a matter of our power, our flesh power (lion), but His power (LAMB). “*For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you*” (2 Cor. 13:4).

It is God’s power, not our flesh power. We pray, “Lord, this has to be You, I am trusting in Your power to pull this off.” And then you see how He does it. John 14:20 says, “*I in you, and you in Me.*” So there it is—both ways “I in ewe, and ewe in Me!” It is a reciprocal relationship.

If you remain as a lamb (abide in Me), you will find that a soft answer turns away wrath. Your antagonist will have nothing to fight against. One does not fight against a lamb; it is such a helpless creature, you cannot fight against it. You are the one that loses. You can try this in relationships at work or at home this week. Do not defend yourself. Entrust yourself to the Lord just like Jesus did. His was a continual, constant ‘lamb’ disposition.

“Think what it is we really possess, if Christ is in us. It was no mere figure of speech that the apostle employed when he declared that Christ was living in him. And what was true of him may be equally true of us. What then is it we possess? We have Him, in whom all fullness of life actually dwells, in whom infinite resources are stored up for our use. Everything needed for continual growth, for perpetual freshness, and for abundant fruitfulness are found in Him. All power, all grace, all purity, and all fullness, absolutely everything to make all grace abound toward us, in us, and through us, are stored up in Him who verily dwells within us.” (Evan Hopkins, *The Law of Liberty in the Spiritual Life*)

Jesus is the visible expression of the invisible God. See the kind of nature that God has? If you want to know God’s heart, look at Jesus. He said, “*If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father*” (Jn. 14:9). God gets misrepresented often. What is His heart is really like? “*My children with whom I am again in labor until **Christ is formed in you***” (Gal. 4:19). Paul is also concerned in his teachings to the churches that Christ be formed in us. Paul said that God wanted “**to reveal His Son in me**” (Gal. 1:16). His desire was to have the Son of God, Jesus Christ, revealed in and through him. So this is the way the Christian life really works. Christ in You! (L-A-M-B in E-W-E), “*Let this **mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus***” (Phil. 2:5).

Believers' Dependence on Christ

In 2 Peter 1:4, Paul goes on to say, *“By which are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature.**”* What is the divine nature that Peter talks about? It is the ‘LAMB’ man nature within us that needs to be allowed to live through us in the circumstances of life and in the reactions of life. It is not just a verse to memorize or put it in your pocket. What does it really mean when you live it out in relationships? *“Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that **the life also of Jesus** might be made manifest in our bodies”* (2 Cor. 4:10).

Spurgeon once said, “He who would desire to be a shepherd must first be a lamb himself.” Jesus became a LAMB first; now He is our Shepherd. He knows exactly what we are going through and what our needs are. *“He was tempted in all points as we were, yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15).

Blindness/Wool over the Eyes

Wool grows and hangs over the eyes of some sheep. The shepherd must cut away the wool. “Pull the wool over their eyes,” is a familiar idiom. Realizing that we as sheep are many times blinded, and many of the sheep that we know are blinded, one of the first things we need to do is pray that God will enlighten our eyes, *“I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints”* (Eph. 1:18).

Note the following tradition as an example of needing enlightenment: On Good Friday, the Orthodox Jews have a ceremony during their Passover Feast. This ceremony is held at three o’ clock, which is the time that Christ died. They take a lamb that has already been slain, thrust a sword up through the lamb’s heart, and then take another sword and thrust it the opposite way through the lamb, making a cross. Then they say, *“Tetelestai,”* “It is finished.” Do they believe in Jesus as their Messiah? No. To them it has nothing to do with the Messiah. To us, it is a perfect picture of Jesus—our Passover LAMB (1 Cor. 5:7).

Many of our loved ones, too, are blinded. Ephesians 4:18 says, *“being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart.”* In desiring to help someone understand the truths of GRACE, remember to go to the Lord first, and pray, “Lord, open their eyes, cut away the blindness that is there so that they can see Who You are!”

Hebrews 2:9 states, *“We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.”* So by Him tasting death for every man, He can bring us into **life**. John 10:16 says, *“And I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear my voice; and they shall become one flock with one shepherd.”* He has also given to us the ministry of reconciliation. *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has given [entrusted] to us the word of reconciliation”* (2 Cor. 5:19). That is the wonderful gospel that we can go out and share with others.

We have talked about the substitutionary death of Christ, but this is the substitutionary **life** of Christ that He wants to live in and through us. He wants His LAMB **LIFE** to be manifest, or made apparent in and through us to a hurting world (Rom. 5:10).

This final verse is at the bottom of the visual. *“Worthy art Thou for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation”* (Rev. 5:9). Two chapters later, *“The LAMB shall be your shepherd”* (Rev. 7:17).

Everyone can come. The ground is level at the foot of the cross.

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

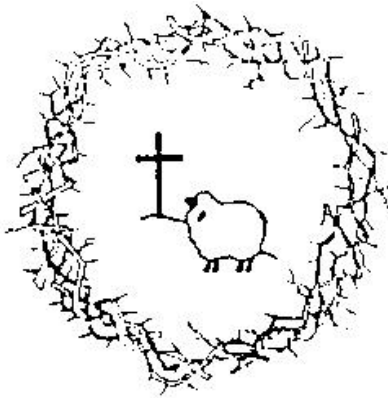
Just as I am, and waiting not,
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

(Charlotte Elliott)

Prayer

Lord Jesus, we are so thankful that You did come down from Heaven to earth. What a wonderful idea to come and become not only a man, but a lamb kind of man—to take on Yourself the sin of the whole world. Thank you for Your Life, Your eternal Life, Your abundant Life, that You can flow through us to a hurting world, to hurting sheep, wounded Christians, lost sheep. We pray that in each one of our lives we will allow You to be Our Shepherd Who will draw other sheep to Yourself. May we not restrict You in any way, may we not restrict the flow of Your grace to others, but may we be the instruments of GRACE to those people who need You so desperately. We thank you that we do shine as lights in this world to our wicked and perverse generation. Let us be Your lamb representatives as we allow You to live Your **Life** through us. We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Review and reinforce this lesson by incorporating the following notes and quotes pages and by reading the Scriptures.



Jesus Christ, as God, deliberately laid aside His position and power.

He deliberately took the form of a servant.

He deliberately took the place of weakness.

He, as man, deliberately humbled Himself.

(As God, He humbled Himself to become a man; as man, He humbled Himself by taking the very lowest place a man could take in humiliation.)

He deliberately carried out an obedience even unto death.

He deliberately went to the cross.

"Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5)

We, too, will count position and power not as things to be grasped.

We, too, will take the place of a bond-slave; living not to do our own will, but the will of the Father.

We, too, will rejoice in weakness so that the power of Christ shall dwell upon us.

We, too, will not shrink from going down in deepest humiliation before the eyes, or at the feet of others.

We, too, will set our faces as a flint and ask no better than to be crucified followers of a crucified Lord.

Mrs. Jessie Penn-Lewis *Message of the Cross*



If we wish to enjoy life at its best and Christian service at its best, we must cease to live the life of initiation! The eloquent pen of Isaiah describes powerful, poignant thoughts, inspired from Heaven: "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways", declares the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). If we are going to walk in the 'high ways' of the Lord, we must cease to live a life of initiation out of our own thinking.

Praise God! We can! Jesus Christ did not live a life of initiation. In fact, He never initiated anything. More than a few statements from His own mouth confirm our stated position.

- John 5:19** "Truly, truly, I say to you, The Son can do nothing of Himself, unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatsoever the Father does, these things the Son does in like manner."
- John 5:30** "I can do nothing on my own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent me."
- John 5:36** "For the works which the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I do, bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent me."
- John 8:16** "But even if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone in it, but I and He who sent Me."
- John 8:26** "The things I heard from Him, these things I speak to the world."
- John 8:38** "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father."
- John 12:49** "For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself Who sent Me has given Me commandment, what to say, and what to speak."
- John 12:50** "The things I speak, I speak just as the Father has told me."
- John 14:10** "The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works."
- John 15:15** "For all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you."
- John 15:24** "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would not have sin, but now they have both seen and hated Me and My father as well."
- John 17:4** "I glorified Thee on the earth, having accomplished the work which thou hast given Me to do."

These words of personal testimony from the lips of our Lord give clear and convincing evidence that His life on earth was one of total response to the Father as opposed to a life of initiation!

By Davis W. Kuykendall *Cain-likeness to Christ-likeness*

Christ was chosen out of the people, that He might know our wants, and sympathize with us. I believe some of the rich have no notion whatever of what it is to labour for their daily bread. They have a very faint conception of what a rise in the price of bread means; they do not know anything about it. And when we put men in power who never were of the people, they do not understand the art of governing us. But our great and glorious Jesus Christ is one chosen out of the people; and therefore He knows our wants.

Jesus suffered temptation and pain before us; our sicknesses He bare; weariness – He has endured it, for, weary He sat by the well; poverty – He knows it, for sometimes He had not bread to eat, save that bread of which the world knows nothing; to be houseless – He knew that, too, for the foxes had holes and the birds of the air had nests, but He had no where to lay His head.

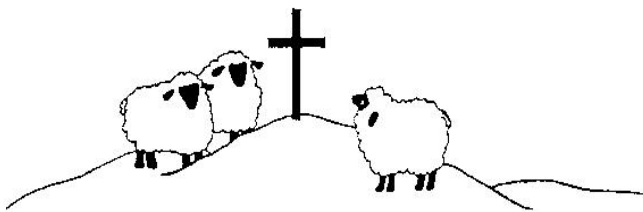
My fellow-Christian, there is not place where thou can go, where Christ has not been before thee – sinful places alone excepted. He hath been before thee; He hath smoothed the way; He hath entered the grave, that He might make the tomb the royal bed-chamber of the ransomed race, the closet where you lay aside the garments of labour to put on the vestments of eternal rest.

In all places whithersoever we go, the Angel of the covenant has been our fore-runner. Each burden we have to carry has once been laid on the shoulders of Immanuel.

“His way was much rougher and darker than mine; Did Christ my Lord suffer and shall I repine?”

Dear fellow-traveler, take courage! Christ has consecrated the road.

Charles H. Spurgeon



**To create He had to speak.
To redeem [recreate] He had to bleed.**

Roy Hession

Changed by Beholding

(2 Corinthians 3:18)

“As we gaze on His glory we shall understand the greatness of the love of the Savior in a way we have never done before, and the greatness of the mighty stoop He made when He became man. And as we look, we are transformed into the same image and become more Christ-like. We do not become like Him by effort, purpose of heart, or even by an act of faith – only by looking. As the Holy Spirit occupies us with Him, we become transformed ‘from glory to glory.’ But we must be occupied with Him. Just as the mirror never struggles to reflect; so our hearts must be in the right position – then the reflection will be clear.”

(C.H.)

*Nothing is so strong as gentleness,
Nothing so gentle as strength
St Francis of Assisi*

Courage and bravery are words of a great sound, and seem to signify an heroic spirit; but yet humility, which seems to be the lowest, meanest part of devotion, is a more certain argument of a noble and courageous mind.

For humility contends with greater enemies, is more constantly engaged, more violently assaulted, bears more, suffers more, and requires greater courage to support itself, than any instances of worldly bravery.

A man that dares be poor and contemptible in the eyes of the world, to approve himself to God; that resists and rejects all human glory, that opposes the clamour of his passions, that meekly puts up with all injuries and wrongs, and dares stay for his reward till the invisible hand of God gives to every one their proper places, endures a much greater trial, and exerts a nobler fortitude, than he that is bold and daring in the fire of battle.

William Law

A serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life