

The Journey through the 7 Mansions

St. Teresa of Avila claimed the right for All the Baptized to a complete development of Baptismal Graces in whatever form the Lord would give them to a person and for which interior prayer is the vital nourishment.

1st	The soul enters the castle. It begins a life of interior prayer despite the many attachments to the world (scorpions, lizards etc.)	The Healing at the Pool of Bethesda Jn. 5:1-16
2nd	Spiritual Combat ensues. The soul finds itself pulled between the world and the spiritual world. Difficult House: Hard decisions to make; Change required	Prodigal Son Luke 15:11-32
3rd	The good Christian or the devout Catholic who is not yet completely converted ; not completely surrendered to God; A good, well-intentioned soul who has his/her idea of how things should be.	Rich Young Ruler Mc.10:17-27 Matt. 19:16-26 Lk.18:18-23
4th	God Intervenes- 1 st Supernatural Prayer; God absorbs the Will Imagine a 3 Speed FAN: Speed 1- Supernatural Prayer of Recollection; Speed 2- Prayer of Quiet Type I (Spiritual Delights); Speed 3- Prayer of Quiet Type II (Sleep of the Powers), more intense given based on the Virtues (Humility, Charity, Detachment) Difficult House: Purification of the Senses, Emotions	The Transfiguration Mc. 9:2-10
5th	Prayer of Union. God takes over the Faculties of the Soul (Will, Intellect, Memory), No Sense of ME (Unconscious), Rarer Gift, Teresa uses image of Silkworm (worm to butterfly) as the soul is transformed, lives now for Christ	Resurrected Christ Appears to His Disciples and to Thomas Jn. 20:19-31
6th	Spiritual Betrothal Prayer of Union; Teresa also experienced Many Graces: visions in images (Christ deep in soul), intellectual visions (Christ at her side, understanding of mysteries eg. Trinity), rapture (faculties & senses seized), transverberation (piercing of her heart) Difficult House: Purification of the Faculties of the soul, many trials	Jesus anointed at Bethany (after Lazarus raised from the dead) Jn. 12:1-10
7th	Spiritual Marriage Transformative Union with God- Summit of Spiritual Life.	Jesus Prays to be Glorified, for His disciples, for all believers Jn. 17:1-26

Teresa's Masterpiece, the Interior Castle (the soul) completed in November 1577, describes man's journey within through Interior Prayer to Union with God.

She outlines 7 Mansions (or Dwelling Places or Steps), each containing many rooms) on this journey.