

Spiritual Testimonies 14-15-16-17-18
Saint Teresa of Avila

14. Habitual Experience of the Indwelling Trinity

Avila, St. Joseph, June 30, 1571

I have experienced this presence of the **three Persons** ... They are very **habitually** present in my **soul**. I have been **accustomed** to experiencing only the **Presence of Jesus**. It seemed there was some **obstacle** to seeing **three Persons**, although I understand there is **only one God**.

The Lord told me that I was **mistaken** to think of things of the **soul** through **comparisons** with **bodily** things. Spiritual things are very different. The soul is capable of great **rejoicing**.

I thought of a **sponge** absorbing and then becoming **saturated** with water. My **soul** was overflowing with **divinity**, **rejoicing** within itself, and **possessing** the **three Persons**.

I also heard these words: "**Don't try to hold Me within yourself, but try to hold yourself within me.**"

From **within my soul**—where I saw these **three Persons** present—these persons were **communicating** themselves to all **creation** without fail, nor did they fail to be with me.

15. Enclosure and the Will of God

Avila, St. Joseph, July 1571

Thinking that those who thought it was **wrong** for me to **go out to found monasteries** might be right; and, that it would be better for me to be occupied in prayer, I heard these words: "**While one is alive, progress doesn't come from trying to enjoy Me more but by trying to do My will.**"

... The Lord said to me: "**Tell them they shouldn't follow just one part of Scripture but that they should look at other parts, and ask them if they can by chance tie my hands.**"

16. Prayer for her brother Agustin de Ahumada

Avila, St. Joseph, July 10, 1571

... While in the hermitage of our Lady of Mt. Carmel praying for one of my brothers, I asked the Lord why Agustin was in a place where his salvation was in danger. I told the Lord that if He had a brother in this danger, what wouldn't I do to help him! It seems I would leave nothing undone to help. The Lord answered me: "**Oh, daughter, daughter! These Sisters in the Incarnation are My Sisters, and you delay? Well, take courage; behold I want it, and it isn't as difficult as it seems to you. And while you think some harm will come to your houses, both they and the Incarnation will benefit. Do not resist, for My power is great.**"

17. Desires for Death

Avila, St. Joseph, July 22, 1571

The **desires** and **impulses** for **death**, which were **strong**, have left me, especially since the feast day of St. Mary Magdalene; I **resolved** to live to **render** much **service** to **God** ... Sometimes, no matter how much I try to reject the desire to see Him, I cannot.

18. Prophecy about St. Joseph's of Avila

Avila, St. Joseph, 1571

I once heard: "**The time will come when many miracles will be worked in this church; they will call it the holy church.**"

Amen