

## Points to Ponder from Julian Norwich

### Easter Sunday

I saw that Jesus—that is, His *attitude*—must become our spiritual clothing. He clothed himself in our flesh. And we must clothe ourselves in His attitude toward God—an attitude of childlike trust and complete abandon to a good Father. In this way, the love of God becomes a spiritual garment that wraps around our inner being. For we come to see—dimly at first, then more clearly—how His love embraces, watches over, protects, surrounds, shapes, and directs. We know He will never leave us alone—nor has He left us alone—no matter what it may look like from a human standpoint.

### Monday

I knew the only thing that could ease my pains of lonely torment were these things—the *hope* that spills down to us by the *grace* of God, the *faith* He sheds on us so that our spirits may be opened to perceive Him, and the love that surrounds and sustains us all.

### Tuesday

Since the time He made this clear to me, this has always been the comfort of my soul—to choose Jesus, in His wonderfully patient and submissive nature. This is my heaven, in every pain and sadness. Slowly it has become clearer that, in times of well-being or in trials, I must draw my entire being into total abandonment and complete submission to the good will of the Father. For that is what Christ did. I have learned that every pain and every woe is like the tender tap of the Good Shepherd's staff, directing my soul back into the Way of Life...

### Wednesday

So I asked, with a great reverent fear, "Lord, I know you are only good. But I do not understand how *all things are well*, when so much harm and anguish come through sin to your dear creatures?"

I must tell you I was amazed at the meek and most loving manner in which He addressed me. I sensed in Him a tender respect toward me, the way you would feel toward an adored child who, in all innocence, has asked an embarrassing question.

First, He showed me the enormity of Adam's sin. And then the Lord showed me that Christ's atonement was far greater in its power to heal and restore than Adam's sin was harmful.

### Thursday

The Lord is not angry at those who press about such questions— "Why do the innocent suffer? Why does God continue to allow sin?" More, He feels pity and compassion on us when we destroy our own peace of mind—for the answer is so great, and our minds are not ready to receive it.

We should take as our example the saints who have gone before us, and who stand before Him now. They want to know nothing but what God chooses to show them.

### Friday

The kind of prayer I am talking about, as I have said, is the kind in which we wait silently before the Lord. We allow Him to show us everything within that is set against His will. We rarely pray in this way because we fear what He may do to us if we abandon ourselves to His will.

Saturday

That is why—though the Lord had shown me He is not angry with us—I wondered about the unceasing love of God, which I had been shown. For I had been taught that we must see our sin and turn from it, and *then* God's anger is turned away, then we are forgiven and experience His mercy...

But in the Lord's revelation of His love to me, I had not detected any holding back of love. It seemed impossible that God, who is love, could withhold any part of love for us until *after* we turn to Him. I saw only love.