

Prayer in the desert

Sentences for meditation

Revd Dr Alison Morgan

"Desert spirituality is a spirituality of struggle, which is inevitable as we seek to know and to journey into ourselves, to face the demons in the depths of our personalities. It is a struggle with the apparent absence of God and a struggle in the darkness of our own emptiness and insufficiency."

David Prail

"Simply waiting for God in silence *is* prayer"

Ladislaus Boros

"And Jesus was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him."

Mark 1

"You should realise that as soon as you intend to live in peace, at once evil comes and weighs down your soul through *accidie*, faintheartedness, and evil thoughts. It dissipates the strength of soul and body, so that one believes one is ill and no longer able to pray. But if we are vigilant, all these temptations fall away."

Mother Theodora

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour"

Habakkuk 3

"Be at peace, and thousands around you will be saved."

Seraphim of Sarov

"Do not forget that you can be alone amid the noise of the world; and equally you can be surrounded by the hubbub of the world whilst withdrawn in your cell."

Theophan the Recluse

"If you are living in a monastic community, do not go to another place: it will do you a great deal of harm. If a bird abandons the eggs she has been sitting on, she prevents them hatching; and in the same way the monk or nun will grow cold and their faith will perish if they go around from one place to another"

Mother Amma Syncletica

"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing...
Waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in
the desert
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty
ground springs of water...
And a highway will be there
and it shall be called the Holy Way.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return.
Isaiah 35

