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## ***Without You, We Sink***

***Thomas a Kempis (from the Imitation of Christ)***



***This poignant excerpt from the writings of Thomas a Kempis reveals why his little book, *The Imitation of Christ* (Lib 3, 14) is the greatest spiritual classic of Western Christianity from the 15th century. It emphasizes our utter dependence upon the power of God. These words appear in the Roman Office of Readings for Tuesday of the 22nd week in Ordinary Time with the accompanying biblical reading taken from Jeremiah 20.***

You thunder your judgments upon me, O Lord; you shake all my bones with fear and dread, and my soul becomes severely frightened. I am bewildered when I realize that *even the heavens are not pure in your sight*.

If you discovered iniquity in the angels and did not spare them, what will become of me? The stars fell from heaven, and I, mere dust, what should I expect? Those whose works seemed praiseworthy fell to the depths, and I have seen those who once were fed with the bread of angels take comfort in the husks of swine.

There is no holiness where you have withdrawn your hand, O Lord; no profitable wisdom if you cease to rule over it; no helpful strength if you cease to preserve it. If you forsake us, we sink and perish; but if you visit us, we rise up and live again. We are unstable, but you make us firm; we grow cool, but you inflame us.

All superficial glory has been swallowed up in the depths of your judgement upon me.

What is all flesh in your sight? *Can the clay be glorified in opposition to its Maker?*

How can anyone be stirred by empty talk if his heart is subject in the truth to God?

If a man is subject to truth, possession of the whole world cannot swell him with pride; nor will he be swayed by the flattery of his admirers, if he has established all his trust in God.

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For those who do nothing but talk amount to nothing; they fail with their din of words, but *'the truth of the Lord endures forever.'*

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## Personal Prayer: Pathway to Joy

Marcellino D'Ambrosio, Ph.D.

Everyone knows that personal prayer is important. You can't expect to deepen a relationship with God talking with Him only once a week! But how, in the midst of the busy, noisy life we all lead, can we develop a pattern of daily prayer that really works? And if we are successful in carving out some moments for prayer, what do we do? How should we spend that time in way that would be most fruitful?

Dr. Marcellino D'Ambrosio has taught spiritual theology academically, but, more importantly, he's had plenty of practice applying that tradition to everyday life. With a family of seven, a business, and a non-profit corporation to run, he knows the challenges that a busy, active life can pose to the Christian who wants to pray. In this talk, he lays down principles and gives practical suggestions on how busy laypeople can develop a prayer life that leads to joy and personal transformation.



**CD - \$8.95**



### **Olive Wood Carved Head of Christ**

This incredible hand carved Head of Christ with Thorns is more beautiful than the picture can display. Each one is distinct and individual.

The carved figure is 7 inches tall and is 4 inches wide at the base and will be an amazing piece to display in your home or to give as a gift.

### **Phytovite (free shipping)**

Phytovite is a state-of-the art antioxidant formulation that includes a comprehensive blend of vitamins, chelated minerals, and phytonutrients which provides the nutritional support so needed for optimal health and longevity. As we approach the cold and flu season - this is a must have for the whole family!

