

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING - REFLECTION



I ask for what I desire as we begin this topic



I pray that my entire being become open to God's grace



I imagine these texts being addressed to me, and note my response

Grace: that we grow in our being, knowing, and doing to serve in a more fruitful way

Context: After nine months following his convalescence in Loyola, Ignatius changed his life completely and, abandoning everything, he departed as a pilgrim to reach Holy Land. During the journey he stopped at a cave in Manresa, a small town near the mountain of Montserrat. There he spent the second year of his new life and it was the place where he had his second conversion. He shares about these forming experiences in his autobiography.

At this time God was dealing with him in the same way as a schoolteacher deals with a child, teaching him. Now, whether this was because of his ignorance and obtuse mind, or because he didn't have anyone to teach him, or because of the resolute will that same God had given him to serve him, it was his clear judgement then, and has always been his judgement, that God was dealing with him in this way.

Autobiography of Saint Ignatius [27]

Once he was going in his devotion to a church, which was a little more than a mile from Manresa (I think it is called St Paul's), and the way goes along by the river. Going along thus in his devotions, he sat down for a little with his face towards the river, which was running deep below. And as he was seated there, the eyes of his understanding began to be opened: not that he saw some vision, but understanding and knowing many things, spiritual things just as much as matters of faith and learning, and this with an enlightenment so strong that all things seemed new to him. One cannot set out the particular things he understood then, though they were many: only that he received a great clarity in his understanding, such that in the whole course of his life, right up to the sixty-two years he has completed,40 he does not think, gathering together all the helps he has had from God and all the things he has come to know (even if he joins them all into one), that he has ever attained so much as on that single occasion. And this left him with the understanding enlightened in so great a way that it seemed to him as if he were a different person, and he had another mind, different from that which he had before.

Autobiography of Saint Ignatius [30]

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

What can help us enter this journey with an open mind to what might come?
What things can limit our learning?