

St. John of the Cross. 2026 will be the centenary of his being made a Doctor of the Church. He left a treasury of writings, and these writings made a significant contribution.

The Prison poems

John would say that the poetry is his writing; the prose is a commentary on the poems. He could say more in the poems and in greater depth. We can draw from it what we need, what feeds us. It speaks to us in ways that he couldn't imagine. The Holy Spirit speaks through the poems and gives them deeper meanings. It enables the Holy Spirit to speak to each one of us.

He composed the prison poems for himself, to sustain him, and to help mentally and spiritually.

The Fount, the Spring, Song of a soul that rejoices in knowing God through faith.  
Stanzas 1 and 2.

What is known through faith has no limits. It is not known through the intellect, or through the senses but through faith. The source, this spring, this origin is God. The Eternal Spring, known but hidden.

Stanza 3.

Everything comes from it, nothing else is so beautiful. The heavens and earth live from it.

Stanzas 4 and 5

It is bottomless, infinite. No darkness, all light comes from it.

Stanzas 6, 7 and 8.

It waters all. Jesus is the Spring which flows from it. I can know all the Trinity by faith.

Stanzas 9, 10 and 11.

This Eternal Spring is hidden in the Eucharist. Though it is hidden, it is here calling out to creatures, (to us), satisfying thirst. Although it is night. The Living Spring which I long for, I see it in the bread by faith. the bread which we touch and consume. Because it is night.

The Romances and the the Fount are only known through faith. The reality is hidden. John only has the darkness of faith; he is confined by the limitations of faith, but set free by this limitless reality which is God. He enters deeply into this supreme gift, the experience of God; knowing the reality of faith, knowing that God is real and tangible.

He is expressing something so real, so profound, so wonderful, that we can know God. This can change everything in our lives.

The Little Bit of Bread, given that we may enter into relationship.