

# **Interior Castle: Reading Journey**

## **1st Dwelling**

Point of departure: beauty and dignity of human person.

Limitations of human condition, reality of sinfulness.

Importance of self-knowledge [see The Book of her Life, Ch.5, para.15]

"Fix one's eyes on Jesus Christ" - our constant companion on this journey Invitation to enter the castle - door of entry prayer: no preconditions to entry.

## **2nd Dwelling**

Responding to the call of Christ spiritual combat. Journey: enter into oneself > fight for inner freedom [from sin, temptation, evil, etc.] > transcendence: union with Christ and life of service.

Learning to live a "Christian" life - sustained commitment to the following of Jesus Christ.

## **3rd Dwelling**

Limits to what can be achieved by human efforts. Love is put to the test.

Call to radical self-giving - "rich young man" - crisis - call to radical decision making.

Growth in virtues: Love, Justice, Truth, Humility, Fear of the Lord, Silence, Obedience, etc.

## **4th Dwelling**

All is changing - beginning of adult love.

Dynamics of relationship changing [Tabor: in synoptic Gospels]

"not about thinking much but loving much and what most awakes love do it"  
4<sup>th</sup> Dwelling Place Ch.1 para.7 [also The Book of her Foundations Chapter 5]

## **5th Dwelling**

Chapter 1.para.2 Carmelite Life?

God's grace is taking over - entering deeply into sacramental life of Church especially Eucharist.

Holy Week - Last Supper> Dying and rising with Christ - death to old self.  
Abandoning one's own will into the hands of the Father [Jesus in garden].

## **6th Dwelling**

Total transformation of the person. Living adult Christianity

All is gift that God gives to those he chooses. This whole book is a treatise on growth and healing - both are a work of God brought to fulfilment in this dwelling place.

Chapter 1: Enter into Night, trials, struggles, vulnerability etc.

Chapters 2 – 6: Struggles within the spiritual life

Chapter 7 (key chapter): Humanity of Christ

Chapters 8 – 10: Fruits of Chapter 7 and preparation to enter the Centre (7<sup>th</sup> dwelling place)

## **7th Dwelling**

Human and Christian maturity

1. Trinity: person enter into mystery of Trinity [Spiritual Testimonies 29 May & 30 June 1571]

2. Spiritual Marriage - point of arrival of whole process [Spiritual Testimony 28 Nov. 1572]

Inseparable from Eucharist, paragraphs 5 & 7 have biblical references

3. Person who has died and risen with Christ - effects. Total transformation in Christ.  
Forgetfulness of self. Suffering: fruit of love, to be with Christ for the sake of Christ, not for the sake of suffering.

4. Purpose: works, mission of Church

Teresian prayer: human formation > social formation > spiritual formation

Love for others:

- a. Friendship in community [controversial in Teresa' time]
- b. Freedom: no friendship without freedom
- c. Jesus is the measure of human love - only love that is like His is true love