



QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING & REFLECTION

A Certain Stability (pp. 181-203)

1. List the characteristics that St. Teresa of Avila attributes to souls in the “third mansion.”
2. How does St. Teresa describe a soul untainted by mortal sin? How does that image compare to her description of a soul in the grips of sin?
3. According to St. Bernard, where is the true home of God? What are the attributes of this home?
4. What is the danger of possessing self-knowledge without also possessing knowledge of God? What does God tell St. Catherine of Siena the devil will attempt to do with our awareness of our own sinfulness?
5. What biblical evidence suggests that progress in the spiritual life is possible? In your own words, summarize at least two Scriptural passages cited in this chapter that tell us holiness is an attainable goal.
6. What is one of the ways God increases our desire for him?
7. Does our desire for God end when we reach the end of our spiritual journey? According to St. Bernard of Clairvaux, why or why not?

