

The Fulfillment of All Desire Chapter 9



QUESTIONS FOR UNDERSTANDING & REFLECTION

A	Certain	Stability	(pp. 181-203)
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	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?

8. When we lack a strong desire for God, what should we do? What will happen when we do that?
9. Even if our desire for God is not great at any given moment, how can we know if God is still at work in our life?
10. What is the "kiss" of God? What does this "kiss" accomplish? How does that "kiss" resemble St. John of the Cross's idea of the twofold dimension of contemplation?
11. What are the dangers of becoming complacent in your relationship with God?
12. How have you come to know yourself better? Who has helped you to attain a deeper self-knowledge? What has startled you most about what you've learned?
13. Who or what has proven most helpful in bringing you to a greater knowledge of God? How has growth in your knowledge of God changed your relationship with him?
14. How often does your desire for God waver? What might be causing it? What is your response when it happens? Does your response usually help or hurt the situation? Explain.