

## **The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis**

### **BOOK THREE: INTERNAL CONSOLATION**

#### **Chapter 17: All Our Care is to Be Placed in God**

##### **Quote:**

“The Voice of Christ

MY CHILD, allow me to do what I will with you. I know what is best for you. You think as a man; you feel in many things as human affection persuades

The Disciple

Lord, what You say is true. Your care for me is greater than all the care I can take of myself. For he who does not cast all his care upon You stands very unsafely. If only my will remain right and firm toward You, Lord, do with me whatever pleases You. For whatever You shall do with me can only be good.

If You wish me to be in darkness, I shall bless You. And if You wish me to be in light, again I shall bless You. If You stoop down to comfort me, I shall bless You, and if You wish me to be afflicted, I shall bless You forever.

The Voice of Christ

My child, this is the disposition which you should have if you wish to walk with Me. You should be as ready to suffer as to enjoy. You should as willingly be destitute and poor as rich and satisfied.

The Disciple

O Lord, I shall suffer willingly for Your sake whatever You wish to send me. I am ready to accept from Your hand both good and evil alike, the sweet and the bitter together, sorrow with joy; and for all that happens to me I am grateful. Keep me from all sin and I will fear neither death nor hell. Do not cast me out forever nor blot me out of the Book of Life, and whatever tribulation befalls will not harm me.”

##### **Definition:**

Care: Watchful or protective attention, caution, concern, prudence, or regard usually towards an action or situation

##### **Scripture:**

1 Peter 5:7

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

Matthew 11:28

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

Psalm 55:22

Cast your burden on the LORD,  
and he will sustain you;  
he will never permit  
the righteous to be moved.

Philippians 4:6

do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your requests be made known to God.

Matthew 6:30

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the  
oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?

**Concept:**

As a disciple of Christ, we must have a deep sense of surrender, trust, and willingness to accept  
whatever may come as part of a faithful and grateful relationship with God.

**Discussion:**

How do we become more focused on Christ than ourselves?

How does selfishness lead to doubt and insecurity?

As Christians, how do we know that God cares for us?