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

**BOOK THREE:** INTERNAL CONSOLATION

**Chapter 2:** Truth Speaks Inwardly Without the Sound of Words

**Quote:**

"THE DISCIPLE

SPEAK, Lord, for Thy servant heareth." "I am Thy servant. Give me understanding that I may know Thine ordinances . . . Incline my heart to Thine ordinances . . . Let Thy speech distil as the dew." The children of Israel once said to Moses: "Speak thou to us and we will hear thee: let not the Lord speak to us, lest we die."

Not so, Lord, not so do I pray. Rather with Samuel the prophet I entreat humbly and earnestly: "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

Do not let Moses or any of the prophets speak to me; but You speak, O Lord God, Who inspired and enlightened all the prophets; for You alone, without them, can instruct me perfectly, whereas they, without You, can do nothing. They, indeed, utter fine words, but they cannot impart the spirit. They do indeed speak beautifully, but if You remain silent they cannot inflame the heart. They deliver the message; You lay bare the sense. They place before us mysteries, but You unlock their meaning. They proclaim commandments; You help us to keep them. They point out the way; You give strength for the journey. They work only outwardly; You instruct and enlighten our hearts. They water on the outside; You give the increase.

They cry out words; You give understanding to the hearer. Let not Moses speak to me, therefore, but You, the Lord my God, everlasting truth, speak lest I die and prove barren if I am merely given outward advice and am not inflamed within; lest the word heard and not kept, known and not loved, believed and not obeyed, rise up in judgment against me.

Speak, therefore, Lord, for Your servant listens. "Thou hast the words of eternal life. "Speak to me for the comfort of my soul and for the amendment of my life, for Your praise, Your glory, and Your everlasting honor."

**Definition:**

Divine Spirit – In Judaism, the Holy Spirit is the divine force, quality, and influence of God over the Universe or over his creatures. In Nicene Christianity, the Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost is the third person of the Trinity.

**Scripture:**

John 14:15-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will bein you.

Matthew 10:20

for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

John 16:13-15

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.  He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine.  That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

Galatians 5:25

Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Romans 8:14

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God.

Romans 8:16

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.

Philippians 2:13

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

**Concept:**

The church instructs people on the ways of God, but it is the Holy Spirit that moves people to live out the will of God

**Discussion:**

How does God speak to believers through the power of the Holy Spirit?

How is the Holy Spirit speaking to us directly different from our learning of God through the Bible?

How does biblical reasoning differ from secular reasoning?

Why is secular reasoning more commonly used than biblical reasoning?