

Explore the Theme — Questions of Life & Death in Our World

excerpts from “Impasse & Dark Night” by Constance FitzGerald, OCD

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Today we come with the world inside us.

Today, instead of realizing that the situations of impasse that we see all over our world provide a challenge and concrete focus for prayer and drive us to contemplation, **do we give in to a passive sense of inevitability, so that imagination dies?**

Adapted from “Impasse and Dark Night” by Constance FitzGerald, OCD, published in *Desire, Darkness, and Hope; Theology in a Time of Impasse*. Liturgical Press, 2021, pp. 94, 110

Can we really believe that if we surrender these situations of world impasse to contemplative prayer that new solutions, new visions of peace and equality, will emerge in our world?

Can we dare to believe that a creative revisioning of our world is possible, or is everything is just too complex, too beyond our reach?

Unless a grain of wheat
is buried in the ground,
dead to the world,
it is never any more
than a grain of wheat.
But if it is buried,
it sprouts
and reproduces itself
many times over.

John 12:20-26, *The Message*



Yet it is only in the process of bringing the impasse to prayer, to the perspective of the God who loves us, that our society will be freed, healed, changed, brought to paradoxical new visions, and freed for nonviolent, selfless, liberating action, freed, therefore, for community on this planet earth.

Death is involved here, a dying in order to see how to be and to act on behalf of God in the world.