

Broken Gods: Hope, Healing, and the Seven Longings of the Human Heart (Summary)

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***Note:** Divine longings “original unity” – state of harmony that existed BEFORE the FALL. Term coined by St. JP II in Theology of the Body!

The Theme of this book is based on the loss of this original unity with God Our Father because of original sin THE FALL of Adam and Eve. Prior to the Fall, man was in perfect “godly” relationship with the one true GOD. Is what heaven is.

Three Attitudes Toward Desire

Addicts: makes IDOL out of desire itself - settle for the pleasure of the moment

Stoics: live in fear or denial of their desires – tend to become bitter and angry – suffer from “*internal sacred conflicts*”

Mystics: In Christian tradition a mystic is simple - someone experiences God behind and within each moment. They see their desires as a door to heaven.

Ch. 3: “running toward abundance & deification. ***We must embrace the mystics approach to imperfection.***

DIVINIATION defines our desires in 3 ways: Ladder of Love: Divine transformation – 3 stages

Purgative: Rehabilitation of earthly desires. **Ladder of Love stage #1:** “we trample our vices underfoot”

Illuminative: seeing Gods love revealed. **Ladder of Love Stage #2:** more confident – we undergo a total reorientation of our desire, enabling us to single-mindedly FOCUS on drawing closer to GOD and fulfilling His mission in our lives

Unitive: my desires united with heart of God. Ladder of Love Stage #3: ready to fall into the arms of our betrothed

- Divination is driven by the strength of my relationship with God, goodness is ***the fruit*** of this relationship
- Don't WANT goodness as much as we want the pleasure.
- Stop fighting brokenness seek instead to heal brokenness

COAL: “The fuel for change.” *Brain* most open to change when we are experiencing the state of mind produced when the following 4 qualities are present. (Discernment of Spirits – BUT)

Curiosity: genuine desire to understand. We take a gentle, questioning posture toward ourselves. Opposite of curiosity is judge mentalism. CASE STUDY: Jimmy - procrastination

Openness: being open helps us to receive, with an open heart, the answers that come to us. Prayerful openness gives God a chance to develop pictures that emerge under the light of His grace. Opposite to close-mindedness

Acceptance: Quality by which we trust that “God’s grace is sufficient” and rest in Him when we find our efforts are not up to the task at hand. Simply means that willing to take at face value what appears to be wrong and what needs to be done to address it. Opposite is self- criticism.

Love: means that we are committed to working for the others good. Loving ourselves means being committed to our own good. STJPII in Theology of the Body teaches that authentic love must be free, total, faithful, and fruitful. (Chap.3)

VIRTUE: refers to our ability to take whatever life throws at us and use it to become better, stronger, healthierhow I might live a full, rich, life rooted in wisdom and strength.

PLAN for SATISFYING THE DIVINE LONGING:

CASE STUDY (so helpful)– **all about the BUT** – BE AWARE so as to UNDERSTAND so as to TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION

Summary of Chapter: Analysis of chapter on “divine longing”:

PRAY: starting point – pray for the GRACE to “Become Aware:

COAL: Fuel for change (UNDERSTANDING)

Curiosity & Openness
Acceptance
LOVE

PRACTISING: Action Items **(TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION)**

PROMISE from God: TRUST

THIS DEADLY SIN	DISTORTS THE DIVINE LONGING for:	CAN ONLY BE FULFILLED BY THIS HEAVENLY VIRTUE...
<p>Pride: makes me believe that I and only I, have the ability to determine what living a full, meaningful and rewarding life means. That attending to anyone but myself will diminish my happiness and fulfillment. I will not serve!</p>	<p>ABUNDANCE: The longing of each person has to live a full, meaningful and rewarding life.</p>	<p>HUMILITY: enables us to make peace with the fact that I need to cooperate with God and others if I want to live an abundant life. Enables me to learn from God and from others experiences</p>
<p>Envy: the desire to have our worth as persons acknowledged and celebrated. Tells us that we have no worth or value unless we have everything that everyone around us has, and that we can accomplish everything that everyone else can achieve. Competition (unhealthy)</p>	<p>DIGNITY: helps us to realize that we are truly God’s gift to the world and challenges us to become more effective instruments of God’s love and care.</p>	<p>KINDNESS: enables us to discover our dignity by enabling us to become the means through which others encounter their God given dignity. Kindness is the little sister of love.</p>
<p>Wrath: compels us to seek selfish “solutions” to our problems that hurt others as much as or as deeply as they have hurt us. (deeply wounded by past) Perpetrates and magnifies perceived injustice by convincing us that revenge is the answer to righting wrongs.</p>	<p>JUSTICE: prompts us to respond to offenses effectively and to restore right order. Calls us out of ourselves and reminds us to care for those around us</p>	<p>PATIENCE: we demonstrate a willingness to let our good efforts to resolve injustices mature instead of trying to force hasty, half-baked “solutions” that hurt others and only serve to make things worse.</p>
<p>Sloth (Acedia) under its influence we believe that the best way to achieve peace is to close our eyes to the problems around us, keep our heads down and avoid conflict – even conflict that involves working for justice.</p>	<p>PEACE: motivates us to live a more harmonious life. We become more attuned to the will of God.</p>	<p>DILIGENCE (Fortitude): we facilitate Gods will no matter what the cost or how long it takes us. Represents our commitment to cooperate with God’s GRACE so that His will might be done in our lives and relationships</p>
<p>Greed: leads us to give into our fears and tells us that the only security we can count on is what we can accumulate for ourselves.</p>	<p>TRUST: to feel certain that both we and what we have are enough to face the challenges life hurls at us</p>	<p>GENEROSITY: the ability to share what we have been given, both as an act of faith and a sign of hope in God’s Providence. God will supply all that we need and there is nothing to fear.</p>
<p>Gluttony: distorts in 2 ways. 1. Feeling full (food, drink etc.) anything that fills up the senses, is an adequate substitute for living a healthy, balanced life. Numbs us to the disorder and chaos in our lives. 2. <i>Stidious:</i> overly fussy, particular, or picky about what we eat</p>	<p>WELL-BEING: empowers us to live a healthy and whole life in balance, body, mind, and spirit.</p>	<p>TEMPERANCE: the ability to pursue and use all good things – not just food- in a healthy way that promotes wholeness and balance in ourselves and others.</p>
<p>Lust: Lies! Telling us that true communion is unnecessary, only connection. Ignores the call to soulful intimacy. Causes us to settle for an illusion.</p>	<p>COMMUNION: intimate connection, to know and be known, authentic love of both God and others</p>	<p>CHASTITY: loving rightly. The virtue that stops us from seeing others as a means to an end instead of as a person of worth and dignity to be loved.</p>