

THE ELEVENTH CHAPTER.

A Prayer for perfect Self-denial and Love.

O MOST gracious Jesus, I, a vile and wretched sinner, heartily acknowledge and confess myself utterly unworthy of all these benefits, and gifts, and graces, and of all grace and love, which so abundantly and beyond all measure You hast bestowed upon me, the least of the worms of earth, and above all, of that love whereby You gave Yourself into the cruel hands of Your enemies, that You might suffer a most bitter death for my sins, and might shed Your precious Blood for my redemption. And I beseech You, O tender Jesus, mightily to inflame my heart with the same love, that I may utterly deny myself, and count myself for nothing, and may subject myself both to You, and, for Your sake, to all creatures, so that I may correspond in some poor way, at least, with Your obedience, and resignation, and wonderful humility. And this one other grace grant me also; namely, that my desires and affections may be so inflamed, that I may offer myself wholly to You in return, with the same burning love as that with which You offered Yourself to the Father for me; and that I may offer myself, too, with all my powers, as a living sacrifice, to accomplish Your most gracious will in all things, both in what I do, and in what I leave undone, without any choice of my own, and to bear whatever may happen to me by the permission of Your goodness, in whatever way or by whomever it may come about; and that I may so free and purify the very depths of my being, relying on Your help, from all selfishness, and sensuality, and impressions of images, and from cleaving to that; in a word, from everything that can cause a barrier between my soul and You, so that naked, and without anything coming between us, I may be united to You in will, and love, and intention, and desire; and that I may thoroughly and wholly shake myself off from, and make myself naked of all that is beneath You, so that You may have free space to work in me, and may accomplish Your pleasant work within me without any obstacle; and that I, all free and unburdened, may embrace You in the naked arms of Your love, and rest for ever in You, and You in me, O my most sweet, and loving, and gracious Lord and God! Amen.