

Christ is Risen!

I was in Communist prison eleven years—in solitary confinement three years. I found out in prison that I didn't know anything. My idea of God disappeared. But what I found out is that the God of the books is different from the God of the experience. When you feel God is alive, I live because Christ lives in me. When Christ is your life you don't need books, you don't need treatises of theology, you don't need lectures, you don't need anything. I found the true God in prison after so many years of seminary and theology and books and scriptures and all kinds of studies. You learn by experience because He is something to be experienced. God is alive. We are the slaves of the books. Sometimes you don't get time to be yourself—you are made of quotations—Kant said this, Plato said that, the Holy Fathers say this. You are different.

We don't have to imitate anybody because we are ourselves. We take principles from here, from there. We need only the Scripture—we don't need another book because God speaks to you through the Scriptures. And you start talking with God and say, "Look, Lord, you created me. Who am I? You wanted me to be in this world." Here you start to learn it—God Himself teaches you who you are.

Each man and woman is a specific individual—not like anyone else. God doesn't repeat Himself when He creates something. So you have your own method in prayer that is only yours; it's in vain to tell you my method. But just start it—practice it—and God gives you your own method that is very personal. Our life in God is very personal—is not like another person's life—but what is important is do it—have a life in God. Talk with Him—feel His presence and He will teach you who you are.

Fr Roman Braga

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