

world ~~as~~ was filled with wordliness, and if they could just get apart by themselves, where they could worship God and contemplate the goodness, and not have to worry about the wickedness of the world, that would be the ideal for which they would strive. And there is that ~~in~~ in this ideal which is entirely right and proper.

If you do not learn to retire in your private room, away from the world about you into the presence of God, to such an extent that you can ~~g~~ forget the world, and be in His presence alone, and when you come out from your private secret communion with Him carry with ~~x~~ you the consciousness of being in His presence to such a point that it is more real to you than the wicked world about you, if you do not ~~xxxx~~ learn to do this, you will not be a great force for God yourself. This is very vital, that God becomes to us a more important force than the world around you. That we be in the world but not of the world. These men wished not to be of the world, and ~~f~~ did not see how they could do it while they remained in the world. And so they tried to go out of the world, entirely. It is a natural desire. But is it the ~~x~~ desire that the Lord wishes us to make primary in our life. We find, as we have mentioned, in Roman Catholicism today, this kind of desire has been changed about so that monast. becomes an instrument for affecting the world. Which it was not originally. God wants ~~w~~ each of us to have that to be a force to affect the world, but a far greater force to affect the world because we retire into His presence where we forget the world entirely.

~~Frequently~~ Well, this proper and right striving and longing is doubtless a principle cause for the fact of many joining monast. institutions today. It is something which each of us should have, this desire, but I believe that we should meet it in a different way than in that ~~xxxx~~ way. But we should ~~xx~~ meet it. Why, then, why was there no a beginning of monast. prior to this particular time? ~~Ixxxx~~ I think perhaps one of the ~~xxxx~~ reasons for that is that the church was being purged constantly by the persecutions. The church was a group of people surrounded by an ungodly world, which from time to time persecuted them severely, and while corruption would come in to the church, between