



Faith and Hope

The Journey School

January 30, 2025

The Mysteries of Faith & Hope

“So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.”

2 Corinthians 4:16-18



This evening's exploration...

Trusting

Trusting the Divine
Mystery

Seeing

Seeing a Deeper
Reality

Abiding

Abiding in Hopeful
Endurance



I. Trusting the Divine Mystery



Losing &
Rediscovering
My Faith



Belief and “Blind Faith”

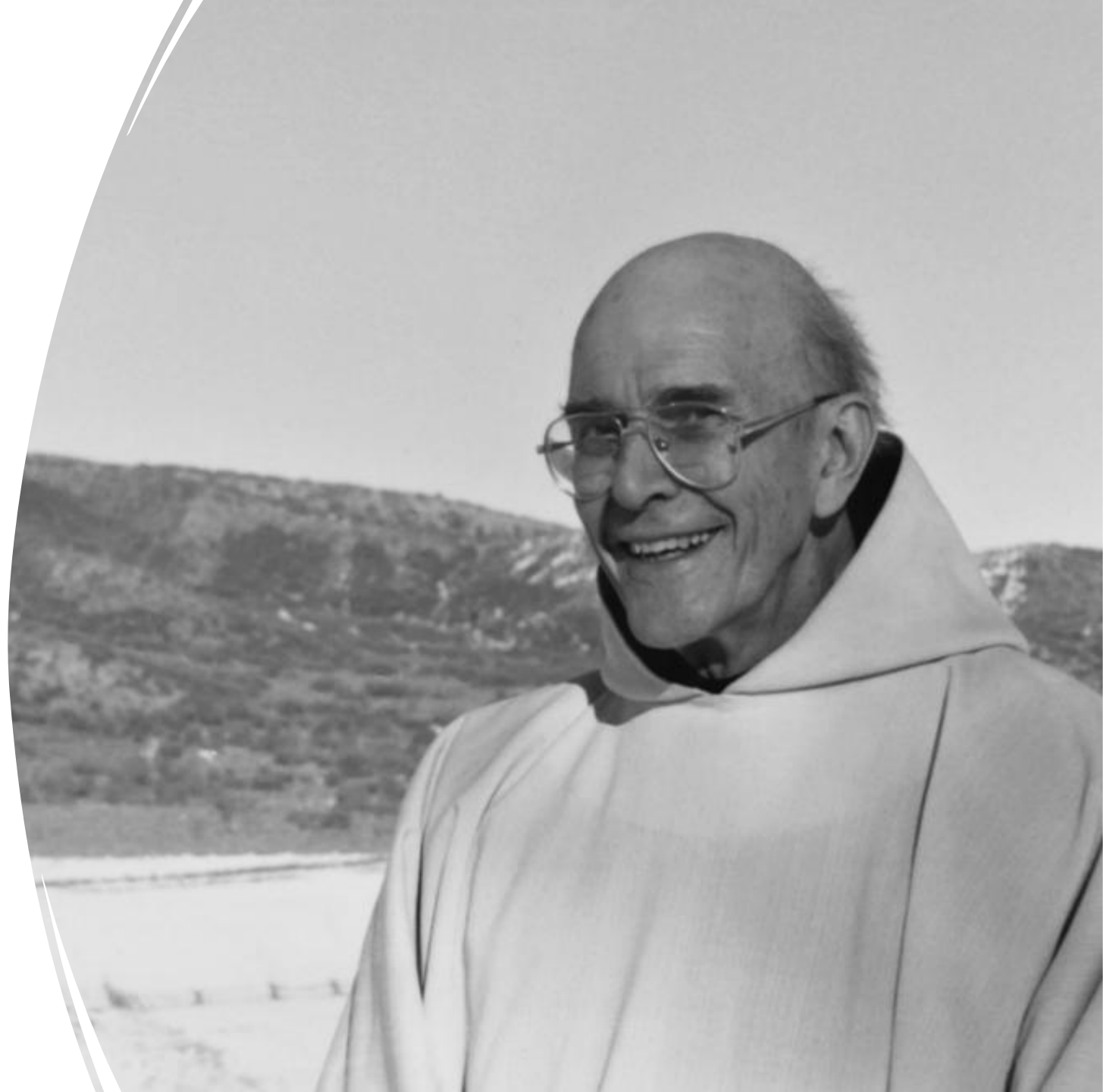
- *Immature* Blind Faith
- Growth in Consciousness and Understanding
- *Mature* Blind Faith



A Relationship of Trust

“The Christian spiritual path is based on a deepening trust in God. It is trust that first allows us to take the initial leap in the dark, to encounter God at the deeper levels of ourselves.”

– Thomas Keating



A leap into the darkness...

“True faith involves commitment and surrender, a leap into the darkness, believing that there we shall find God. Love, too, is essentially about commitment and surrender, and the desire for union. Yielding, surrendering to the magnetic attraction of God, casting aside all that might hinder our union with [God]; this is what faith and love are all about, and this is what leads us to the Wisdom of the Heart, the true knowledge of God.”

- Cyprian Smith, *The Way of Paradox: Spiritual Life as Taught by Meister Eckhart*





Integrating the Unknown

“What is this dimension of depth? It is the incorporation of the unknown and of the unconscious into our daily life. Faith brings together the known and the unknown so that they overlap: or rather, so that we are *aware* of their overlapping. Actually, our whole life is a mystery ... faith incorporates the unknown into our everyday life in a living, dynamic, and actual manner. The unknown remains unknown. It is still a mystery, for it cannot cease to be one. The function of faith is not to reduce mystery to rational clarity, but to integrate the unknown and the known together in a living whole, in which we are more and more able to transcend the limitations of our external self.”

Thomas Merton, *New Seeds of Contemplation*

II. Seeing a Deeper Reality





Faith as Psychological Understanding

⁵ In coming to the other side of the sea, the disciples had forgotten to bring bread. ⁶ Jesus said to them, “Look out, and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ⁷ They concluded among themselves, saying, “It is because we have brought no bread.” ⁸ When Jesus became aware of this he said, “**You of little faith**, why do you conclude among yourselves that it is because you have no bread? ⁹ Do you not yet understand, and do you not remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many wicker baskets you took up? ¹⁰ Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many baskets you took up? ¹¹ How do you not comprehend that I was not speaking to you about bread? Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.” ¹² Then they understood that he was not telling them to beware of the leaven of bread, but of the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.



LUKE 7-1-10

Faith as Understanding Scale

⁶ And Jesus went with them, but when he was only a short distance from the house, the centurion sent friends to tell him, “Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you enter under my roof.” ⁷ Therefore, I did not consider myself worthy to come to you; but say the word and let my servant be healed. ⁸ For I too am a person subject to authority, with soldiers subject to me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and to another, ‘Come here,’ and he comes; and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ⁹ When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him and, turning, said to the crowd following him, **“I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith.”** ¹⁰ When the messengers returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.

Faith as a Force

⁵ And the apostles said to the Lord, **“Increase our faith.”** ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.



Becoming Receptive to Higher Centers

GREATER MIND

Psychological Thinking

Logical Thinking

Sense-thinking

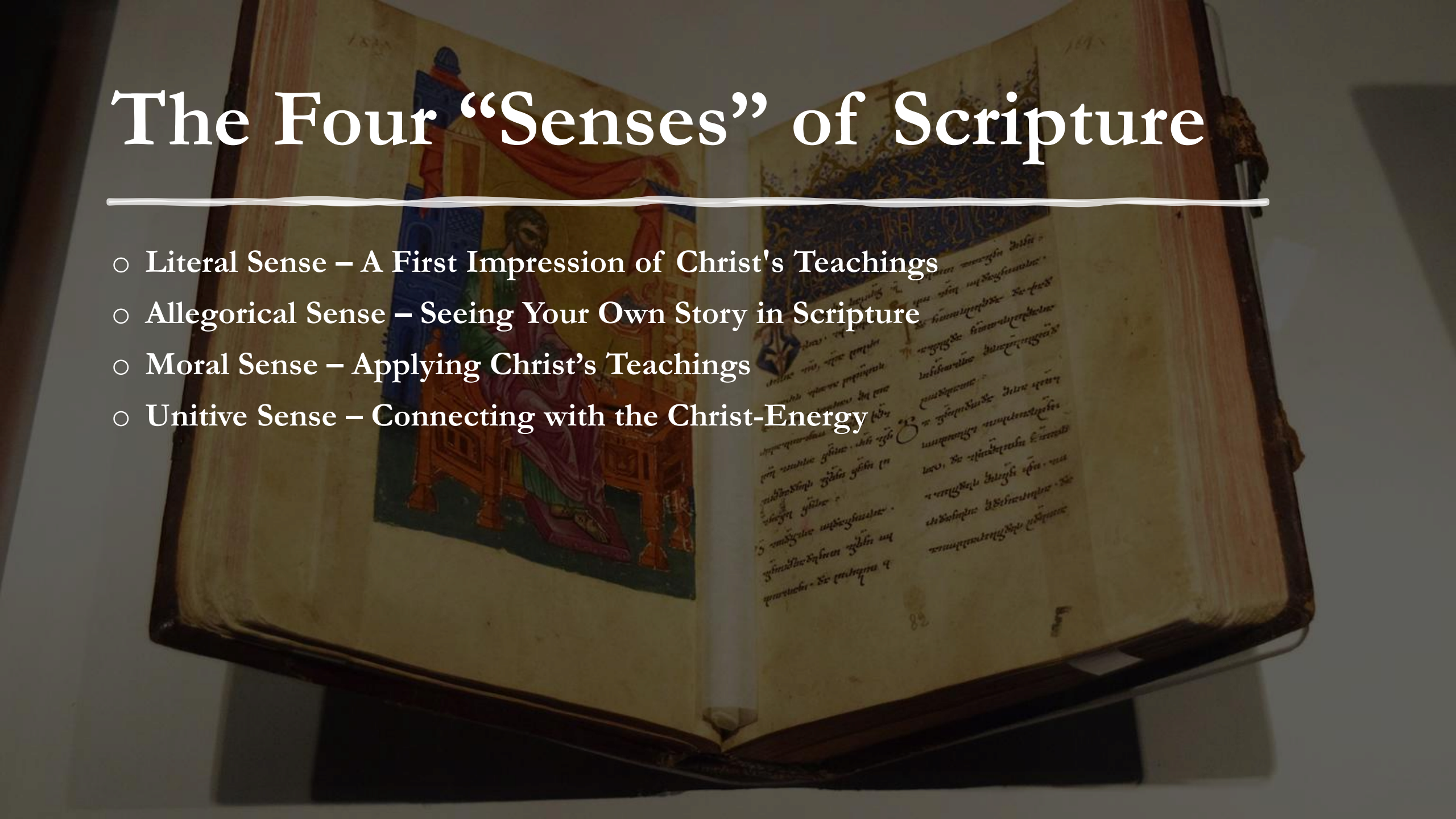
Formatory Thinking

A-logical Thinking

Superstition

The Four “Senses” of Scripture

- Literal Sense – A First Impression of Christ's Teachings
- Allegorical Sense – Seeing Your Own Story in Scripture
- Moral Sense – Applying Christ's Teachings
- Unitive Sense – Connecting with the Christ-Energy



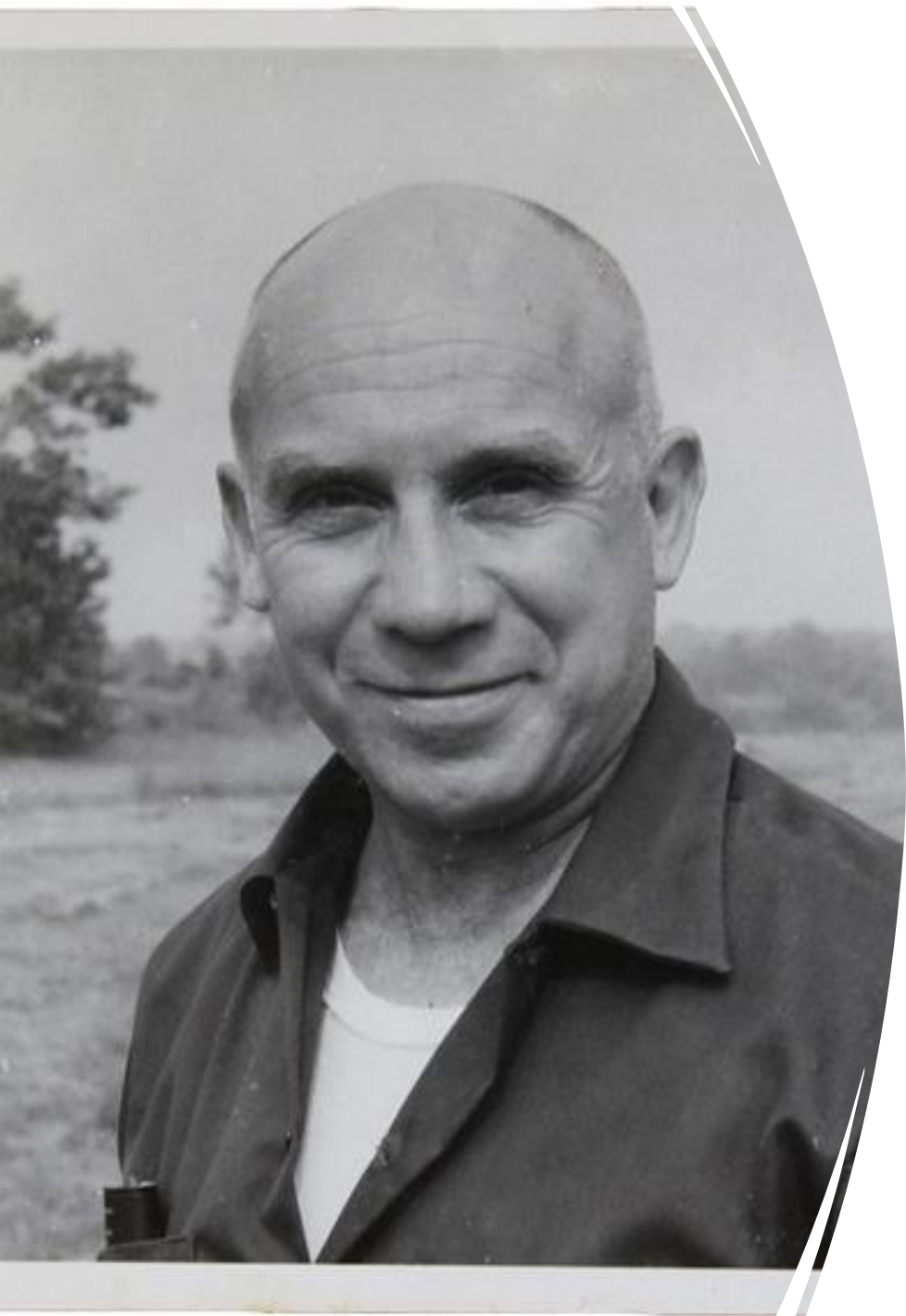
Visio Divina



Giancarlo Restuccia, *Staircase of a Bell Tower*

III
Abiding
in Hopeful
Endurance





The Gift of Hope

Supernatural hope is the virtue that strips us of all things in order to give us possession of all things. We do not hope for what we have. Therefore, to live in hope is to live in poverty, having nothing. And yet, if we abandon ourselves to economy of Divine Providence, we have everything we hope for ... Hope deprives us of everything that is not God, in order that all things may serve their true purpose as means to bring us to God ... Hope is proportionate to detachment. It brings our souls into the state of the most perfect detachment. In doing so, it restores all values by setting them in right order. Hope empties our hands in order that we may work with them. It shows us that we have something to work for, and teaches us how to work for it.

- Thomas Merton, *No Man is an Island*

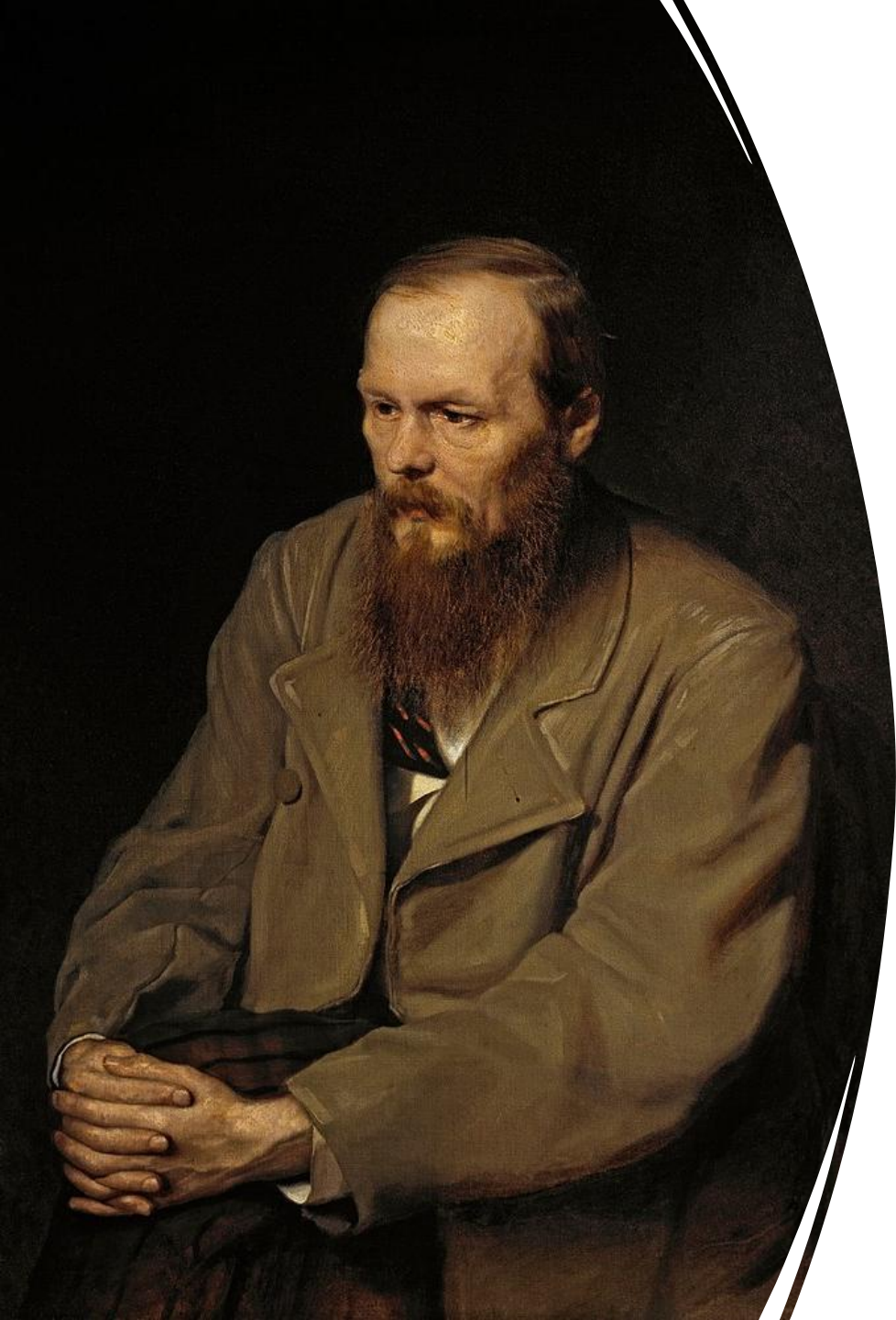


Observing Our Attachment to Outcomes



Enduring the
Dark Nights





Keeping Heart

To be a human being among people and to remain one forever, no matter in what circumstances, not to grow despondent and not to lose heart—that's what life is about, that's its task.

- Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Letters*