



St EDWARD

KING & MARTYR

Lenten Reading Questions for Rowan Williams, *Passions of the Soul* (London: Bloomsbury Continuum, 2024)

Introduction

1. Do we see our Christian faith as an ever-changing 'wakefulness' to Christ?
2. If we are made to share and participate in Christ glory, what are the kinds of things we do to grow in that glory?
3. What do you think of the Eastern idea of 'apatheia' or learning to discipline our human passions and desires?

Chapter 1

1. How can we become enslaved by our passions?
2. Discuss Evagrius' eight passions of the soul. Do some possibly resonate with you more than others?
3. If the goal of discipline is freedom in Christ, then how might we approach the passions as part of our growing in Christ?

Chapter 2

1. How would you describe pride? What do you think of Rowan Williams' description on pp. 24-25?
2. Have you ever experienced listlessness? Or *acedia*? How did you deal with it?
3. How does suffering in our journey of faith help us with pride or *acedia*? How might praying psalms of lament help us to overcome a sense of listlessness?

Chapter 3

1. Has anger ever served you well in your life? What has usually been the end result of your anger?
2. How might we reimagine the idea of Christian meekness? What does meekness mean to you?
3. How would you describe gluttony? What disciplines could we practice to grow out of gluttonous habits? How might we think about the environment and our consumption?

Chapter 4

1. How do we understand avarice as controlling others and trying to control our own image?
2. Where do we see avarice in the world around us?
3. How do we cultivate mercy in our lives? How might that lead us away from avarice and lust?

Chapter 5

1. How can we compare our envy to God's prodigal love? Where are places in our lives that we see envy creeping in?
2. How would you describe the difference between the despair of Peter and Judas?
3. How do the beatitudes give us the light of hope?

Chapters 6-7

1. How do you think disciplining the passions of the soul leads us further towards union with Christ?
2. Have you had any experiences this Lent where you felt closer to the presence of Christ?
3. How can prayer and times of solitude push us further in understanding our own soul and draw us closer to Christ?