

2 Corinthians 1:3-5 (PASSION)

3 All praises belong to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.


For he is the Father of tender mercy and the God of endless comfort.

4 He always comes alongside us to comfort us in every suffering so that we can come alongside those who are in any painful trial.

We can bring them this same comfort that God has poured out upon us. 5 And just as we experience the abundance of Christ's own sufferings, even more of God's comfort will cascade upon us through our union with Christ.

the
GOD
of all comfort





God never leaves us alone
in our suffering so
that we won't leave
others alone in
theirs.

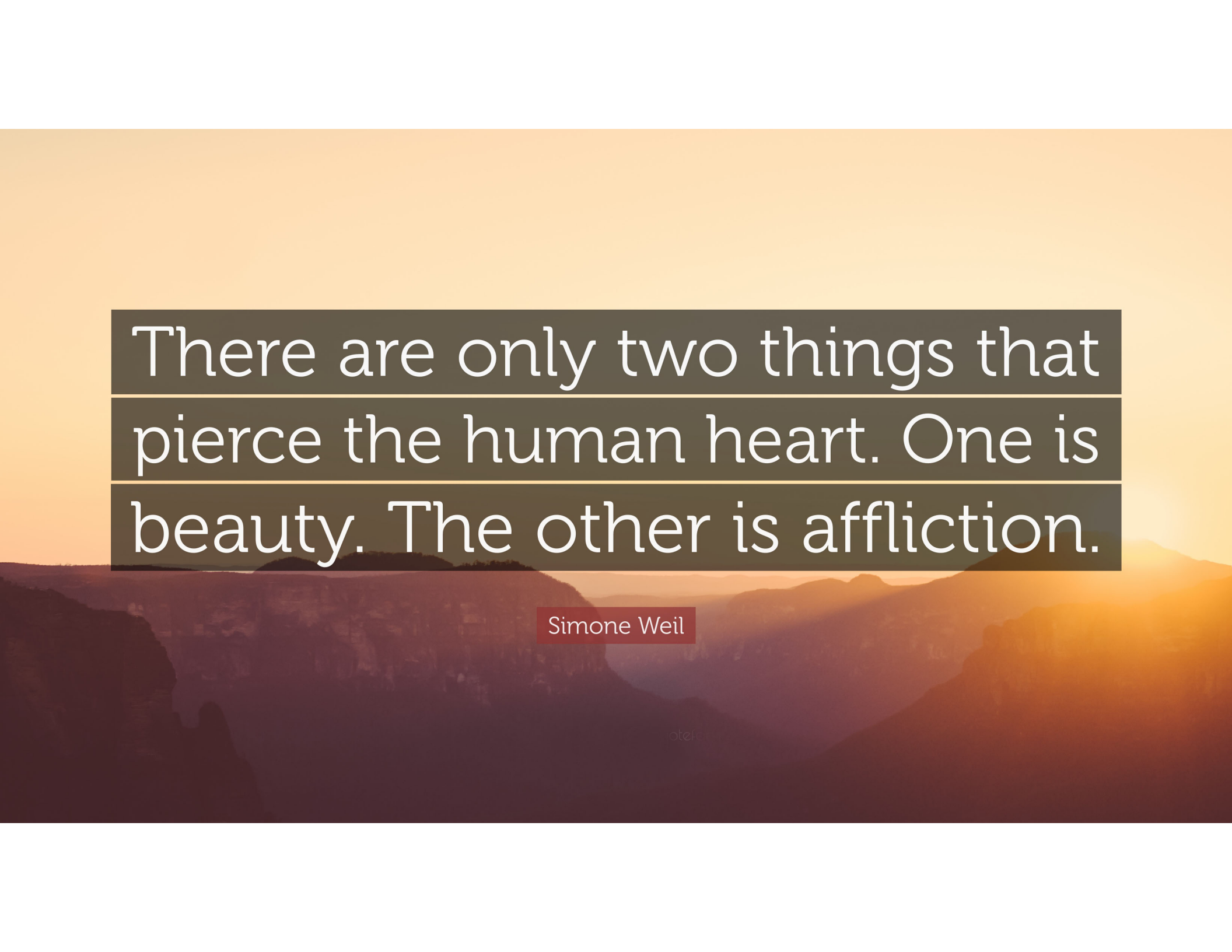
2 Corinthians
1:5

VFA

**God's love for us is
not the reason for
which we should love
him. God's love for us
is the reason for us to
love ourselves.**

Simone Weil
(GRAVITY AND GRACE, 1942)



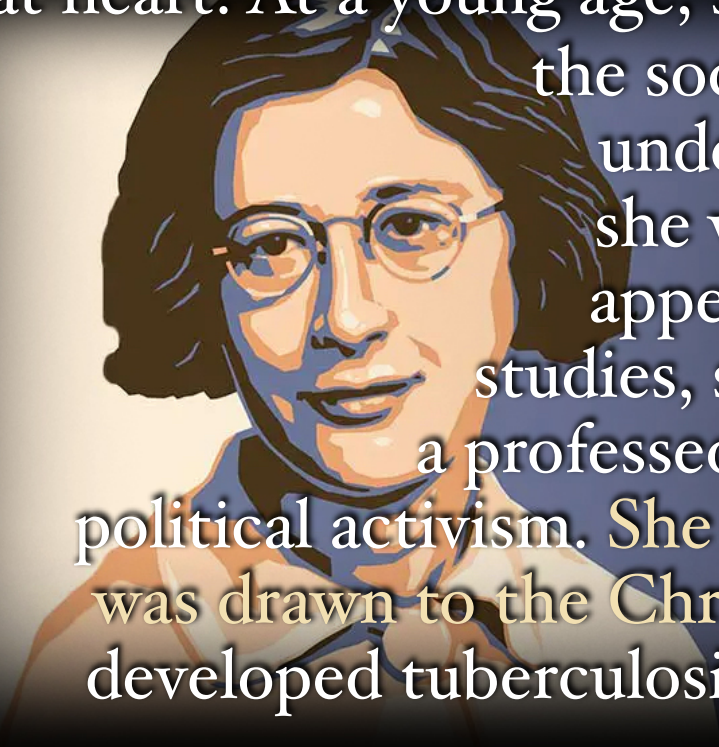


There are only two things that
pierce the human heart. One is
beauty. The other is affliction.

Simone Weil

Simone Weil on “The Love of God and Affliction”

Simone Weil (1909-1943; pronounced “vay”) was born into a Jewish family in Paris and enjoyed a fairly comfortable upbringing. Yet she developed altruistic tendencies early on and grew up to be a pacifist at heart. At a young age, she decided to dedicate her life to uplifting the social conditions of the downtrodden and underprivileged. A brilliant student at school, she was a voracious reader with an insatiable appetite for knowledge. After completing her studies, she began her career as a teacher. She was a professed pacifist and was passionately involved in political activism. She also had a deep interest in mysticism and was drawn to the Christian faith. A woman of frail health, she developed tuberculosis in 1943 and died at the young age of 34.



Rock and River Church Videos

A collection of videos created and used by Michael Lafleur during teaching times at Rock & River Church



(Brad Jersak on “*God’s Co-suffering Love*”, click link below)

<https://vimeopro.com/user2890445/rock-and-river-church-videos/video/709592596>

Brad Jersak on Experiencing God's Co-suffering Love

2 days ago

Michael Lafleur and Sam Cooper invited Brad Jersak to speak about how God relates to us in the midst of our experiences of pain, suffering and loss -- offering a deeper revelation of Trinity's comforting presence as co-suffering love.



Only the suffering God can help.

— *Dietrich Bonhoeffer* —

“Attention is the Rarest and Purest Form of Generosity”

“The love of our neighbor in all its fullness simply means being able to say to him:

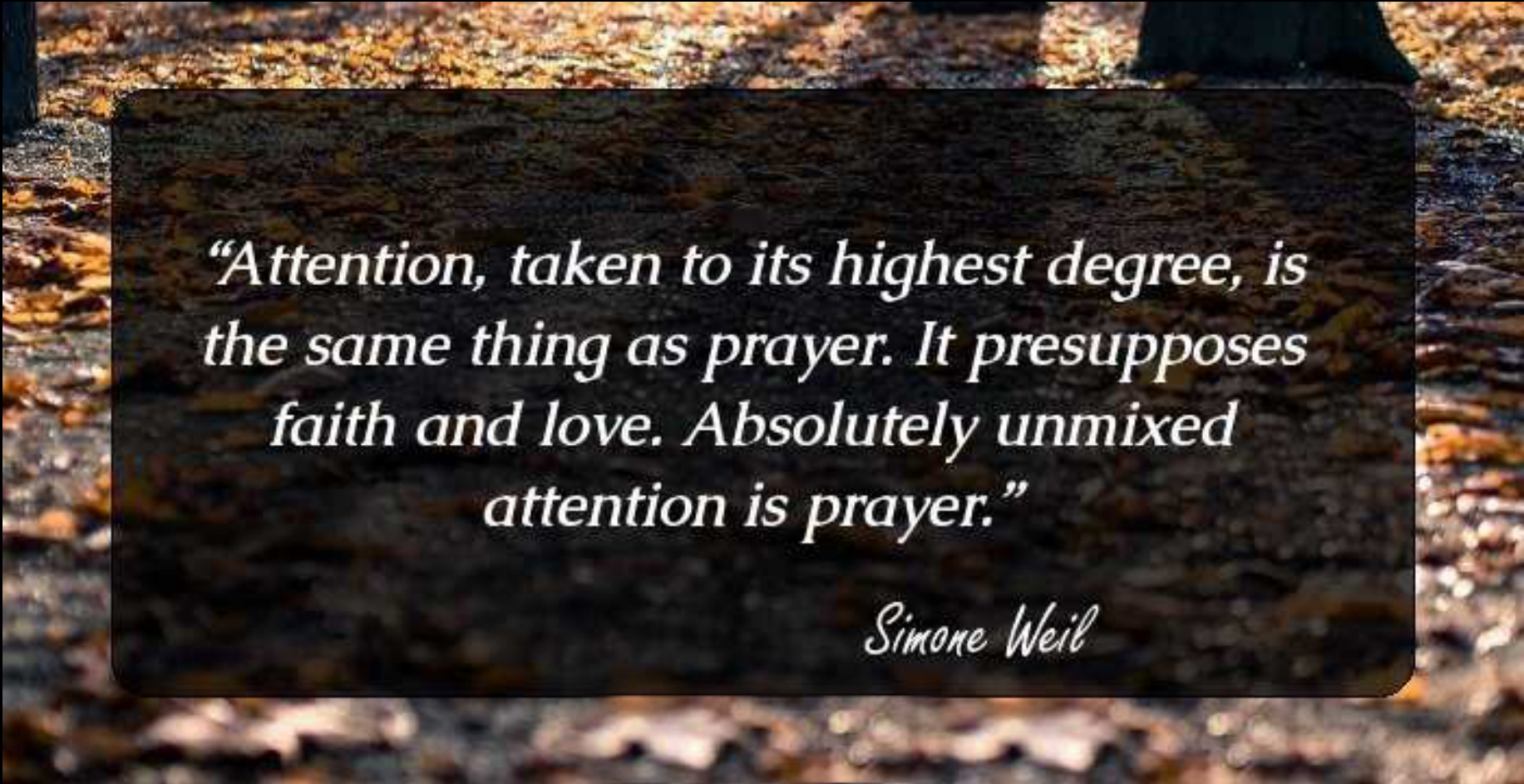
“What are you going through?” It is a recognition that the sufferer exists, not only as a unit in a collection, or a specimen from the social category labeled “unfortunate”, but as a man, exactly like us, who was one day stamped with a special mark by affliction...

And it is indispensable to know how to look at him in a certain way.

This way of looking is first of all attentive. The soul empties itself of all its own contents in order to receive into itself the being it is looking at, just as he is, in all his truth. Only he who is capable of attention can do this.”


- Simone Weil
(from *“Gravity and Grace”*)





“Attention, taken to its highest degree, is the same thing as prayer. It presupposes faith and love. Absolutely unmixed attention is prayer.”

Simone Weil

A scenic waterfall in a forest. The water flows over mossy rocks into a stream. The background is a dense forest with tall trees. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

God is with us,
God is for us,
God is in us.

“In that day you will know that we are in seamless union with one another! I am in my Father, you are in me and I am in you!” - Jn 14:20 MIRROR

Life is a Relational Adventure with our Trinitarian God
Empathetically Present to us in Jesus with Co-suffering Love.

“Through the Incarnation, Trinity inseparably joined Their eternal divine nature with humanity and continue to genuinely share in the joys and sorrows our everyday lives. As our Great High Priest, Jesus’ empathetic friendship, co-suffering love and comforting presence are made real both to us and in us by the Holy Spirit...”

- Michael Lafleur, May 10th 2020

*The LORD your God goes with you;
he will never leave you nor forsake you.*

DEUTERONOMY 31:6



Life is a Relational Adventure with our Trinitarian God
Empathetically Present to us in Jesus with Co-suffering Love.

“All that Jesus knows and experiences in communion with the Father
is being freely shared with us by the Spirit to enjoy as our own.

Be encouraged.

Acts 23:11 NLT

And be sure of this:

**I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS,
EVEN TO THE END OF THE
AGE.**

Mt 28:20 NLT

God was, is and always will be
intimately touched by our our
sorrows and acquainted with our
grief to comfort, heal and
ultimately redeem and restore all
that has been lost and broken,
engaging us as willing participants
to help make everything new.”

- Michael Lafleur, May 10th 2020

YOU'RE A GOOD GOOD FATHER

(to play “Good, Good Father” music video, click link below)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-akoOoFBw3c>

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

- 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 -

