

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN MYSTIC

GOD BUILDS A
BRIDGE TO
THE UNKNOWN

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ALONE

*Blindly Release from the Familiar
to the Unfamiliar*

Why is learning the ways of Christian mysticism faced alone?

And after He (Jesus) said goodbye to them, He went to the mountain to pray (Mark 6:46 AMP).

...Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray (Mark 1:35b).

Every Christian mystic is with people yet walks alone with no distractions or outside influences. They don't look to others for comfort. Loved ones can't identify nor understand why or how they lead a different lifestyle. The pathway is narrow. God is the sole source of hope and support. The Christian mystic for a season feels desperately alone even among friends and family.

During this period of solitude (which can be many years), a significant shift happens. It is rumored Paul was set apart for service 10-14 years to prepare for his calling. While alone, Paul was separated from his old life and mindset. He made a dramatic shift. Divine inspiration led him to embrace a new way of thinking and living. He was remade to be a change agent. His solitary moments led to world-changing impact.

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When Paul was imprisoned, he experienced God's presence while alone.

...the Lord stood beside Paul and said, Take courage... (Acts 23:11a AMPC).

Just as God spoke to Paul, He speaks to Christian mystics through life's trials. Discouragement, uncertainty, and closed doors can lead to feelings of isolation. These difficult experiences, which may include job loss or financial hardships, are part of the journey. However, this time of solitude can lead to a new normal. Ministry is perceived through a different lens.

Love, joy, and peace become more pronounced, and the individual's character is refined and strengthened.

But blessed [spiritually aware, and favored by God] are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear (Matthew 13:16 AMP).

The unfolding continues in Chapter 7 of *The Life of a Christian Mystic* by Russell D. Ward