We trust God when we are able to let go, despite our pain and fears, and leap into life. — Jean Blomquist

It is in solitude that compassionate solidarity grows. In solitude we realize that nothing human is alien to us, that the roots of all conflict, war, injustice, cruelty, hatred, jealousy, and envy are deeply anchored in our own heart. In solitude our heart of stone can be turned into a heart of flesh, a rebellious heart into a contrite heart, and a closed heart into a heart that can open itself to all suffering people in a gesture of solidarity. — Henri Nouwen

Liturgy is a microcosm of the work which God is doing in the world, and it is there that salvation is being worked out. Liturgy must never become an alternative world to that of social reality. — Kenneth Leech

The job of the peacemaker is to stop war, to purify the world, to get it saved from poverty and riches, to heal the sick, to comfort the sad, to wake up those who have not yet found God, to create joy and beauty wherever you go, to find God in everything and in everyone. — Muriel Lester

[Attempts to separate “spiritual” concerns and “social/political” concerns] . . . have been front and center ever since Pharaoh unsuccessfully tried to persuade Moses that religion had nothing to do with Egypt’s domestic policy on the status of nonindentured servants. — Robert McAfee Brown

The best definition of the Gospel message I ever heard is that the Gospel is the permission and command to enter difficulty with hope. — Donna Schaper

How would it change the shape of social struggle if we understood that we wrestle not just against flesh and blood but also against principalities, against powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavens? What are the practical implications of putting on the whole armor of God and praying at all times in the Spirit (Eph. 6:10-20)? How would it change the nature of our wrestling if we did so in the context of continuous Bible study and singing and worship? . . . It is the way increasing numbers of others have learned they must live, in order to keep on struggling against the Beast without being made bestial. — Walter Wink

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. — 2 Chronicles 7:14

. . . thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. — Jesus
To be healed is a prelude to becoming a healer. — Daniel Berrigan

Meditation has no point and no reality unless it is firmly rooted in life. — Thomas Merton

The fruit of silence is prayer. The fruit of faith is love. The fruit of love is service. — Mother Teresa

Even if a man were in rapture like St. Paul and knew of one who was in need of food he would do better by feeding that person than by remaining in ecstasy. — Meister Eckhart

Only when we are lured out of ourselves, attached to something greater, are we moved to righteousness. — William Willimon

We imitate whom we adore. — Augustine

But we are his people. We have eaten at his table. We have heard his word. We are identified as the odd ones of the world, called to be at odds with the world, ordained to call into question the world’s way of doing business. — Walter Brueggemann

When you say [something is] “impossible” you ought to say, “relative to my present state of ignorance it’s impossible.” — Mortimer Adler

The joy of the resurrection seduces the miser in each of us into spendthrift love. — John Shea

If you want to change people’s obedience, you must change their imagination. — Paul Ricouer

The world is waiting for new saints, ecstatic men and women who are so deeply rooted in the love of God that they are free to imagine a new international order. . . Most people despair that [it] is possible. They cling to old ways and prefer the security of their misery to the insecurity of their joy. But the few who dare to sing a new song of peace are the new St. Francises of our time, offering a glimpse of a new order that is being born out of the ruin of the old. — Henri Nouwen

We want to bathe in the blood of the dragon and drink from the blood of the Lamb at the same time. But the truth is that we have to choose. — Dorothee Sölle

In our age, we need more than almost anything else to restore the political dimensions of mystical vision and the visionary dimensions of political action. . . . The vision of God and the identification of oppression [go] together. Out of the sense of divine holiness and justice [come] a sense of the viciousness of injustice and sin. Knowledge of God [leads] to a deeper knowledge of human realities. — Kenneth Leech

Paradoxically, this total Instruction [God’s Spirit moving in our lives] proceeds in two opposing directions at once. We are torn loose from earthly attachments and ambitions. And we are quickened to a divine but painful concern for the world. He plucks the world out of our hearts, loosing the chains of attachment. And he hurls the world into our hearts, where we and He together carry it in infinitely tender love. — Thomas Kelly

Christian mysticism is neither a kind of pantheistic infinity mysticism, nor an esoteric mysticism of exaltation, tending toward the self-redemption of the individual soul. It is — putting it extremely — a mysticism of human bonding. The God of Christian faith is found only in the movement of God’s love toward persons, “the least,” as has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Only in this movement do we find the supreme nearness, the supreme immediacy of God. And that is why mysticism, which seeks this nearness, has its place not outside, beside, or above responsibility for the world, but in the center of it. — Johannes Metz

At the center of our pain, we glimpse a fairer world and hear a call. When we are able to keep company with our own fears and sorrows, we are shown the way to go, our parched lives are watered, and the earth becomes a greener place. Hope begins to grow, and we are summoned to the work that will give us a feeling of wellness and make possible that which we envision. — Elizabeth O’Connor

It is not sufficient to discuss the present crisis on the informational level alone. . . . We need to help each other process this information on an affective level, if we are to digest it on the cognitive level. — Joanna Macy

What we do with our lives outwardly, how well we care for others, is as much a part of meditation as what we do in the quietness and turning inward. In fact, Christian meditation that does not make a difference in the quality of one’s outer life is short-circuited. It may flare for a while, but unless it results in finding richer and more loving relationships with other human beings or in changing conditions in the world that cause human suffering, the chances are that an individual’s prayer activity will fizzle out. — Morton Kelsey