

Patient Trust in Ourselves and the Slow Work of God

Above all, trust in the slow work of God. We are, quite naturally, impatient in everything to reach the end without delay. We should like to skip the intermediate states.

We are impatient of being on the way to something unknown, something new; and yet it is the law of all progress that it is made by passing through some states of instability - and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you. Your ideas mature gradually - let them grow. Let them share themselves, without undue haste. Don't try to force them on as though you could be today what time (that is to say, grace and circumstances acting on your own good will) will make you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit gradually forming within you will be. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you, and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself in suspense and incomplete.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, S.J. (1881-1955)