

Center us down, O Lord,
until in our heart of hearts
we hear your still small voice.

“You have made known to me the ways of life;
you will make me full of gladness with your presence.”
~Acts 2:28



O Ingenious God,
I rejoice in your creation,
and pray that your Spirit touch me so deeply
that I will find a sense of self
 which makes me glad to be who I am
 and yet restless
 at being anything less
 than I can become.
Make me simple enough
 not to be confused by disappointments,
clear enough
 not to mistake busyness for freedom,
honest enough
 not to expect truth to be painless,
brave enough
 not to sing all my songs in private,
compassionate enough
 to get in trouble,
humble enough
 to admit trouble and seek help,
joyful enough
 to celebrate all of it,
 myself and others and you
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

“Make Me Simple” by Ted Loder
from *Guerillas of Grace; Prayers for the Battle*, (Minneapolis, Augsburg Books, 1981), 88.

Image: Paul Cézanne, *The Allee of Chestnut Trees at the Jas de Bouffan* c1888. Barnes Foundation, Public Domain