

On Doing Nothing

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Abstract

I believe in God's providence over my life, but this poem emerged from a question I believe all Christians ask even when they are aware of His providence: "God, did I make the right choices?" I am also a firm believer that good literature can lead readers closer to Truth, and this poem is a result of its speaker seeking to determine who he is meant to be in Christ and what to do if he discovers he is not. May this poem also provide readers with a space to ask similar questions and, ultimately, find their answers in Christ.

Keywords: providence, Christ, questions

“. . . so that at least he may say, as one of my own patients said on his arrival down here, 'I now see that I spent most of my life in doing *neither* what I ought *nor* what I liked.' . . . And Nothing is very strong: strong enough to steal away a man's best years"¹

-Screwtape to Wormwood, *The Screwtape Letters*

I'm so afraid
that I will come to find
in my lifetime
I neither did what I had hoped
nor what I was meant to do
that I will come to find
I simply came and went
like a dandelion seed
swept away by a short breath
landing on a sidewalk
several feet from the grass

¹ C. S. Lewis, *The Screwtape Letters (with "Screwtape Proposes a Toast")*, in *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics*, first paperback ed. (HarperCollins Publishers, 2007), 219.