

My God, you chose to create a universe in which I, Tom, would exist. You have plans for that universe, for its growth in goodness.

You give me opportunities, at every instant, to assist such growth.

These involve understanding something of your plans, discerning the actions, & types of action, that are appropriate to the sort of being I am, to the sort of world I am in, to the sort of society that surrounds me.

They involve understanding, on the basis of revelation, & of the interpretation of revelation in the life and work of your Church, something of the love ⁱⁿ your call to me, & to each of us, to live in your friendship, both now and forever, in and through and beyond those appropriate actions, along with all their ramifications that you have prepared in love for those who live in faith and act with hope.

In your love for me you have made me free. You have given me power to collaborate in your work, or to draw apart, to contribute positively to my own growth in my use of all the gifts, internal & external, with which you have furnished me, thus contributing, too, to the improvement of the world and the life of your Son's mystical body, in ways that are inviting and demanding, yet loaded with implications that are beyond my horizon.

The other side of freedom is in withdrawal & non-cooperation.

The key is never to withdraw from you, my creator & lover. I must become alert to what could be an obstacle to friendship with you, and exercise myself in avoiding such things, as well as in welcoming all that fosters this central friendship.