**Complete and original version of the text also used in the video in Focomediasharing**

Once we have known God

Once we have known God, when we fail to deserve his light because we have not been vigilant in love, and have let ourselves be overwhelmed by the cross without taking advantage of grace, the soul gropes in darkness and in anguish, and it seeks him.

The soul seeks Love, calls for it, cries out to it, screams at times and wails. But it does not find Love. It does not find Love because it does not love.

God does not yield. He has an immutable law. Heaven and earth will pass away … and his words allow no exceptions.

The soul has no right to love before it loves: it receives love when it has love.

God has made it in his image and likeness, and he respects the dignity with which he has clothed it.

It is the soul that must take the initiative and love, almost as if making the first move in response to grace. Then God comes. He manifests himself to the one who loves him, gives to the one who has, and such a one will remain in abundance.

The soul that loves participates in God and feels itself to be lordly. It fears nothing. Everything gains value for it.

We pass from death to life when we love.

New City, Chiara Lubich, Essential Writings p82