

GOD has provided that when his grace penetrates to the very center of a man and from there illuminates all his being, he is able to walk on water without violating any of the laws of nature. When, however, a man turns away from God, he simply gives himself up to the laws of gravity. Then he thinks that he can decide and choose, but he is only a thing, a stone that falls. If we examine human society closely and with real attention, we see that wherever the virtue of supernatural light is absent, everything is obedient to mechanical laws as blind and as exact as the laws of gravitation. To know this is profitable and necessary. Those whom we call criminals are only tiles blown off a roof by the wind and falling at random. Their only fault is the initial choice by which they became such tiles.

SIMONE WEIL (1909-1943)