

- to have God
in oneself*
1. The idea
 2. Major Bodies
 - a. Meister Eckhart (d. 1327), John Tauler (1361) and the "Friends of God."
 - b. The Brethren of the Common Life , Gerhart Groot, (d. 1384)
 3. *Some prominent mystic leaders*
 - a. Thomas a Kempis: (d. 1471) The "Imitations of Christ"
 - b. Catherine of Sienna (d. 1380)
 - c. Joan of Arc (d. 1431)

I will talk about mysticism and the contributions of same at some length. Many of their opinions are strongly evangelical. many were later condemned by church councils and authorities. They spoke of things such as "born again" and "God born in the heart." The tendency in deeper mysticism or "spirituality", however, is to be moved too far to the subjective side of life and lose the grip on absolutes. It is hard to walk a good balance in these matters.

And we may note in passing that the influence of these parties in the life of Luther, etc., was considerable.

C. Monastic Developments

It is good every now and then for the student to review the history and development of monasticism. It is important to see both the positive and negative sides of the matter. In this period the development of monasticism is probably near its climax in historical perspective. The reasons for this are found in both the society of the time and the church. The depravity of society in general and the evils that were seen in the ecclesiastical establishment made the living of a life in refuge and service an attractive proposition.