One of my all time favorite books to read is the book ‘Wounded by Love.’ It’s an exceptional boom, one of which I would read at Camp over the summer when I had the time. It’s one of my favorite books because no matter when I open the book, and no matter what page I open the book to, it seems as though Elder Porphyrios is talking to me. I wanted to share this short passage about love.

“Whoever wants to become a Christian must first become a poet. That’s what it is! You must suffer. You must love and suffer--suffer for the one you love. Love makes effort for the loved one. She runs all through the night; she stays awake; she stains her feet with blood in order to meet her beloved. She makes sacrifices and disregards all impediments, threats, and difficulties for the sake of the loved one. Love towards Christ is something even higher, infinitely higher.

And when we say ‘love’, we don’t mean the virtues that we will acquire, but the heart that is pervaded by love towards Christ and others. We need to turn everything in this direction. Do we see a mother with her child in her arms and bending to give the child a kiss, her heart overflowing with emotion? Do we notice how her face lights up as she holds her little angel? These things do not escape a person with love of God. He sees them and is impressed by them and he says, ‘If only I had those emotions towards my God, towards my Holy Lady and our saints!’ Look, that’s how we must love Christ our God. You desire it, you want it, and with the grace of God you acquire it.”

Powerful stuff, yes?
Words of Encouragement
It’s so easy to talk about living our faith, but what about actually living our faith? It’s so much more difficult to walk the walk, than talk the talk. This is why it’s important to surround ourselves with like-minded people who consider our spiritual well being. This is why it’s so important to be an active member of liturgical and parish life. It’s about having support in our journey through life. I consider the summer where campers had to overcome difficult situations, such as climbing over a wall, without using ropes or ladders. It forced campers to work as a team and problem solve together. Our spiritual life is a similar thing. We absolutely need the assistance of God, His mother, the saints, our spiritual fathers and our church family to get through the good and bad times. We absolutely must not be afraid to call on God daily, not just when we need something, but at all times. Even as simple as asking God to bless our food. At the end of the day, we must all keep pushing on and living life. Just remember to eat your veggies, say your prayers, and be thankful to God in all things!

Walking through the woods the other day and noticed this incredible spider web. This web, which measured about 7 inches in diameter was suspended in the air about 9 or 10 feet high. Literally, it was being held up by three or four strands of webbing that stretched over a distance of 20+ feet. Father Stephen and I stood there looking at this web and he audibly asked, “How in the heck do they do this? It’s amazing.” I couldn’t agree more. What a beautiful moment spent in awe of God’s creation. While I’m no lover of spiders, I couldn’t help but admire the beauty of the webbing. If you can see in the image, the web appears to have different colors in it. Amazing. Beautiful. Wonderous. God certainly has a way of revealing beauty, even in the little creepy crawlers.