Abstract
This essay examines ideas of God outside of the official theological discourse, which, however, are no less inspiring concerning God’s true nature as love and mercy. Over against theoretical concepts, these ideas comprise a wide set of propositional content, emotions, images, moods, etc. forming the basis of one’s personalised faith in God. I argue that such ideas are often overlooked by the discipline of theology, while their importance is crucial for an accurate understanding of our relationship with God. Therefore, I present three test-cases from the field of literature, each of which communicates, in their own distinctive manner, a wealth of intuition concerning God’s merciful love: Charles Péguy’s God of solidarity, Aleksej Javlensky’s God of redeeming suffering, and Hans Rath’s ‘imperfect’ God. They may be read as offering much food for thought also for academic theology.

Keywords: idea of God, concept of God, Charles Péguy, Aleksej Javlensky, Hans Rath.