

Reflections

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The Faith Which Saves Us

God wants salvation. Definitely, man also wants it. But in his freedom, he looks for it through false ways.

Every man is a seeker of happiness, of truth, of life. And he wants all of it without limits or measure, in the dimension of eternity. In itself, nobody wants unhappiness, imperfections, shadows, and falseness.

So then, why is it that so many prefer the shadows to the light, death to life? God loves man and therefore does not flatter his freedom. And thus man does not measure things and events “from God’s point of view,” but from his smallness and limitations. Thus he takes as good for him what is bad for him; instead of God’s truth, he prefers his own truth which is deceitful and often a lie. What St. Paul says happens to him: “I do not do the good I want to do, but the bad I do not want to do.”

There is a truth we should not lose sight of: our freedom is not absolute, but conditioned. What does such an affirmation mean? It means that we are not free “to do whatever we feel like,” but to do what corresponds to our human nature. This comes from God who created us. We are not free from that fundamental conditioning. None of us chose to live or not. Nor were we asked if we wanted to be born male or female, in this or that family or country.

Furthermore, our rights end where the rights of others begin. My justice cannot be unlimited, nor can my truth be unlimited. If we admit that basic truth in our life, we are already acknowledging the first and most fundamental of the commandments: To Acknowledge God as the supreme norm, truth and Light, for our human reality.

Thus we have the basic position (posture) of a creature. It is humble openness which makes us ask in each case: “Lord, what do You want me to do?”

It means to accept that we are very limited, quick to take as justice, what satisfies egoism; as truth, what is convenient to whims; as light, that which is not but the meanness of our pride.

Therefore, self-deceived, we separate from God and our actions (works) become bad: “we prefer the shadows to the light because our actions (works) are bad.”

The demands of faith. On the contrary, he who from his admitted and acknowledged smallness and dependence turns to God, will be enlightened by faith: “will obtain Eternal Life.” But two elements belong to faith: One is **Grace**, the love of God that saves, that to save us reached the extreme of giving us his only Son. The other element is **our corresponding and collaborating**.

Just as the love of God became visible and palpable in Jesus, in HIM also became clear the demand of authentic faith. Christ taught that it is not enough to say “I believe.” “The one who says Lord, Lord, is not saved, but the one who fulfills the Will of God is saved.”

Personal faith lived daily. Gospel or infidelity. Gospel or atheism are realities of our existence. Ours is the choosing. We must see to it that God is in it like Jesus – Savior, or like Judge – renouncer. Our acceptance of God should be concrete and real and manifest itself in daily life. Let us not be like those who fall below the exclusion of Christ because they are content saying “Lord, Lord, “ rather let us be like those who are believers in their daily life because they fulfill the Will of God.

That demands overcoming the meanness of egoism, to open oneself to God with the sincere question: “Lord, what do you want me to do?” To live is to go from one option to another, from one act to another, and in each case we should decide on dependence on God. We should see Christ as model and example of an authentic Christian and evangelical conduct. That is what the Gospel points to when it invites us to “walk in the truth,” in search of the Light. Each one of us should reflect that Light in his life so that men can see God in us, that they acknowledge HIM, love HIM and are saved.

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