

FAITH AND REASON

The Content of our Faith: Divine Revelation determines the content of our faith. The human personality determines the character of our faith. Content and character are two sides of the one coin. Let us consider what is usually neglected - despite its importance - the character of our faith.

Are you a person whose behavior comes from the heart? The heart wishes to love and to be loved. The question of what is right or wrong is interpreted as meaning is there room for love? With this faith one must recognize that the necessary room for development of the heart, love can only exist in Christ. This form of faith makes many seem possible, which others would deem impossible. The difficulty with this type of faith is that it is pained by the fact that cruelty, injustice, sin, exist despite love. Other forms of faith do not have this difficulty.

Are you a person whose life is based on a search for truth? For you, then, truth is not just an affair of reason but that which characterizes life. The inexplicable, the obscure, bother you. You are satisfied only with the ultimate explanation of things. Once you perceive that this peace is not possible in this world, you realize that it must have its source in divine revelation. This form of faith involves penetrating to the depths of ultimate truth which comes to us in Christ. It means being aware that Christ is the Way, the Truth, the Life. The crisis for you arises when secular knowledge seems to oppose divine revelation, or when a point of dogma seems to be contrary to reason.

Are you a person whose faith is based on a desire to do good? Then you wish to order and improve yourself. You are motivated by a desire to improve yourself. This form of faith will encounter limits and opposition on all sides, internal and external, until it becomes clear that renewal of the world, and renewal of self, comes in God's good time. These limitations make a deep impression on you.

Are you a person whose life is based on a search for order? You see life torn by many forces, you yearn for peace, order, unity. This form of faith involves discovering in God, that absolutely just, wise, order of all things, to submit your will to His. It means to accept divine law which is eternally valid, and the presence of God in history. With a joy almost incomprehensible to others you embrace the institutions which regulate our life of faith.

There is another type of faith which one meets especially in people who have difficulty in expressing themselves. Such people have a profound grasp of the transitory nature of life. Life as it is known to others is to them only a pale shadow of reality. Whatever the basis of this attitude it leads them to recognize what frequently evades great mind, the unreal character of life. Such people long for what will give them a full experience of life. They wish to attain a reality which has nothing to do with appearance, in order to feel truly real themselves. This road is frequently a long one. First, they think they have found what they are seeking in passions, in enjoyment, work, in the will to fight, until they discover that all this simply hides the emptiness. Ultimately they realize that God alone can rescue them from this condition. The types of faith we have just considered are rarely found in their pure state in anyone.

Normally there is a blending of a number of them. It is of the utmost importance, therefore, to understand the faith that is ours, to such a degree that we do not confuse or undermine divine revelation - which depends, not on us, but on God alone. It is at this juncture that people "get their wires crossed" and in a manner of speaking "blow fuses all over the place". Then the defective reasoning so characteristic of the modern world has what is commonly referred to as "a field day".

Unless we have a clear firm grasp of the content of our faith, we fall prey to our own spirit and to the spirit of the world. The path, being the "narrow way", is not the easy one. But the alternative is the broad way that leads to death and destruction.

The mind sharpened by obedience to conscience enables a person to have Faith. And since it is frequently impossible to know how much comes from the "inward guide" and how much is from an earthly source, conscience seeks what it does not of itself fully supply a thirst for knowledge of the unseen Lord - divine revelation. Those who do not see the need to grow in their faith should realize that an uninformed faith leads, as it must, to an uninformed conscience. An uninformed conscience will not experience a thirst for knowledge of the unseen Lord - divine revelation. The spirit of this world acts like a blowtorch on such a uniformed and uncertain faith. The question is quite simple..... decide or drift? **Fr. William C. Mooney**

Life is sacred because it comes from God. Life is the most precious thing every creature or every human being has. Life can be transmitted by parents to children; but it has its origins in the Divinity. All life is a gift of God to creation. To be alive is to exist, to exist is to move in the world as a tiny part of creation. Therefore, we must appreciate all types of life and preserve it because life is precious. (John 14:6) Jesus says: I am the way, the truth, and the life. He is the life of every person; we live in Him. He says (John 15:5) I am the vine; you are the branches. He is really saying that we are part of Him and that we can only live in Him. Blood is like a symbol of life; that is why Jesus shed His Precious Blood, the blood of God, so that we could live eternally by drinking of that Blood. When we pray honoring the Precious Blood of Jesus, we honor life. This is the fifteenth Prayer of Saint Bridget; it honors life, the Precious Blood of Christ.

It is Jesus that you seek when you dream of happiness; He is waiting for you when nothing else you find satisfies you; He is the beauty to which you are so attracted; it is He who provoked you with that thirst for fullness that will not let you settle for compromise; it is He who urges you to shed the masks of a false life; it is He who reads in your heart your most genuine choices, the choices that others try to stifle. It is Jesus who stirs in you the desire to do something great with your lives, the will to follow an ideal, the refusal to allow yourselves to be ground down by mediocrity, the courage to commit yourselves humbly and patiently to improving yourselves and society, making the world more human and more fraternal... **Pope John Paul II**

Reverence: We can never show enough reverence, nor ever worship the Eucharist with adequately heartfelt veneration. That is why throughout the ages it has been the custom in the Church to receive the Holy Eucharist kneeling. We should receive the Holy Eucharist prostrate and not standing. Are we the equals of Our Lord Jesus Christ? Is it not He who will come upon the clouds of heaven to be our Judge? When we see Our Lord Jesus Christ, shall we not do as did the Apostles on Thabor when they prostrated themselves on the ground in terror and wonder at the greatness and splendor of Our Lord Jesus Christ? Let us keep in our hearts and souls that spirit of worship, that spirit of profound reverence for Him who created us, for Him who redeemed us, for Him who died on the Cross for our sins.

A Thought For the Day

Sunday Truth can prevail only in virtue of truth itself.
Monday As I hope in thee, O Lord, inspire me with that confidence, which brings me to thy holy mountain.
Tuesday Actions speak louder than words. Let your words teach and your actions speak.
Wednesday We do not go to Holy Communion because we are good; we go to become good.
Thursday The principle Trap that the devil sets for young people is idleness.
Friday The Lord has called us from different nations, but we must be united with one heart and one soul.
Saturday Miracles are not contrary to nature but only contrary to what we know about nature.

Prayer of St John Paul II: Lord God from you every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. Father you are love and life. Through your Son, Jesus Christ, born of woman, and through the Holy Spirit, grant that every family on earth may become for each generation a true shrine of life and love. Grant that your grace may guide the thoughts and actions of husbands and wives for the good of their families and of all the families in the world. Grant that your young may find in the family solid support for their human dignity and for their support in truth and love. Grant that love strengthened by the grace of the Sacrament of Marriage may prove mightier than all the weaknesses and trials through which our families sometimes pass. Through the intercession of the Holy Family of Nazareth grant that the Church may fruitfully carry out her worldwide mission in the family and through the family. We ask this of you, who are life, Truth and Love, with the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

The Christian soul knows it needs Divine Help and therefore turns to Him Who loved us even while we were yet sinners. Examination of conscience, instead of inducing morbidity, thereby becomes an occasion of joy. There are two ways of knowing how good and loving God is. One is by never losing Him, through the preservation of innocence, and the other is by finding Him after one has lost Him. Repentance is not self-regarding, but God-regarding. It is not self-loathing, but God-loving. Christianity bids us accept ourselves as we really are, with all our faults and our failings and our sins. In all other religions, one has to be good to come to God in Christianity one does not. Christianity might be described as a “come as you are” party. It bids us stop worrying about ourselves, stop concentrating on our faults and our failings, and thrust them upon the Savior with a firm resolve of amendment. The examination of conscience never induces despair, always hope...Because examination of conscience is done in the light of God’s love, it begins with a prayer to the Holy Spirit to illumine our minds. A soul then acts toward the Spirit of God as toward a watchmaker who will fix our watch. We put a watch in his hands because we know he will not force it, and we put our souls in God’s hands because we know that if he inspects them regularly they will work as they should...it is true that, the closer we get to God, the more we see our defects. A painting reveals few defects under candlelight, but the sunlight may reveal it as daub. The very good never believe themselves very good, because they are judging themselves by the Ideal. In perfect innocence each soul, like the Apostles at the Last Supper, cries out, “Is it I, Lord” (Matt. 26:22).” ... **Fulton J. Sheen, Peace of Soul**

In His Will is Our Peace
Fr. William C. Mooney

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