

003. Ways of Coming to Know God
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Adult Catechism Class 2018





Class Structure:

Introduction

Scripture & Catechism

Faith Sharing

VOL 1: PART 1

I believe – We believe

Chapter 2 :

God's encounter with man

2.1 God's revelation

2.2 The transmission of God's revelation

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Knowing

God

God desires Man to

know Him

1. Introducción



God is Love

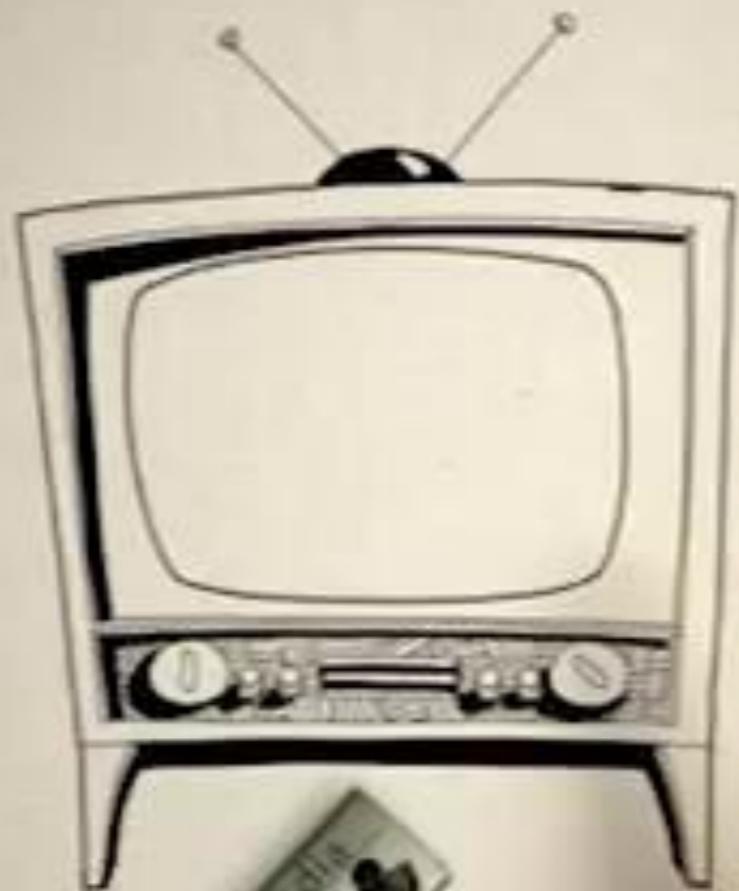
2 Ways of Knowing God

Bottom up: Knowledge

manipulation - A rational
approach

Top Down: Revelation is bestowed
on us by God - A faith approach

Why does God reveal Himself to Man?



How does God reveal Himself to Man?



11. A Rational Approach

To a certain extent, faith is not only a kaleidoscope that is made up of different shapes, which can be arranged in different ways.

Faith speaks to our conscience and understanding, because it expresses the truth and our conscience is created because of the truth. Therefore, a faith that is unexamined not a genuine Christian faith.

(Pope Benedict XVI "God and the World"
P26)

For example Issac Newton said,

The wonderful arrangement and coordination of the universe can only take place in accordance with the plan of the omniscient. It was my most important discovery at that time and it will be forever.

(Pope Benedict XVI "God and the World"
P27)

St. Augustine of Hippo (Mathematician)
said:

I am a Christian. This means, I am like
Copernicus, Newton, Descartes, Leibniz. . . .
Like all great astronomers and great
mathematicians, they believe in the deity of
Christ.

(God and the World P27)

III. ways of Revelation

3.1. Man's knowledge of salvation
comes from God

—— A Letter from St. Paul

His divine power has given us everything needed for life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Thus **he has given us, through these things, his precious and very great promises**, so that through them you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of lust, and may become participants of the divine nature.

● (2 Peter 1:3-4)

3.2. The Benefits & Outcomes of accepting revelation

—— The Letters of Peter

“For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you.”

(2 Peter 1:11)

“But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.” *(John 1:12)*

3.3. After a person receives a revelation:

—— They will experience a transformation in their lives and live in holiness

—— The Letters of Peter

For this very reason, you must make every effort to support your faith with goodness, and goodness with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with endurance, and endurance with godliness, and godliness with mutual affection, and mutual affection with love. For if these things are yours and are increasing among you, they keep you from being ineffective and unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. For anyone who lacks these things is short-sighted and blind, and is forgetful of the cleansing of past sins. Therefore, brothers and sisters, be all the more eager to confirm your call and election, for if you do this, you will never stumble. For in this way, entry into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly provided for you. (2 Peter 1:11)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. **Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.** And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. **(1 John 3:1-3)**

IV. The
Stages of
Revelation

4.1. Through the Universe

God, who creates and conserves all things by his Word, provides men with constant evidence of himself in created realities.

(CCC 54A)

4.2. Through our ancestors: Adam & Eve

Furthermore, wishing to open up the way to heavenly salvation - he manifested himself to our first parents from the very beginning." He invited them to intimate communion with himself and clothed them with resplendent grace and justice.

(CCC 54B)

4.3. Through the Covenant

This revelation was not broken off by our first parents' sin. "After the fall, (God) buoyed them up with the hope of salvation, by promising redemption (Genesis 10:5) ; and he has never ceased to show his sollicitude for the human race.

(CCC 56)

4.4. Through Abraham

In order to gather together scattered humanity God calls Abram from his country, his kindred and his father's house, and makes him Abraham, that is, "the father of a multitude of nations." (Genesis 17:5) "In you all the nations of the earth shall be blessed." (Genesis 12:3)

(CCC 59)

4.5 Through the Israel Tribes

The people descended from Abraham would be the trustee of the promise made to the patriarchs, the chosen people, called to prepare for that day when God would gather all his children into the unity of the Church. They would be the root on to which the Gentiles would be grafted, once they came to believe.

(CCC 60)

After the patriarchs, God formed Israel as his people by freeing them from slavery in Egypt. He established with them the covenant of Mount Sinai and, through Moses, gave them his law so that they would recognize him and serve him as the one living and true God, the provident Father and just judge, and so that they would look for the promised Saviour.

(CCC 62)

4.6 Through the Prophets

Through the prophets, God forms his people in the hope of salvation, in the expectation of a new and everlasting Covenant intended for all, to be written on their hearts. The prophets proclaim a radical redemption of the People of God, purification from all their infidelities, a salvation which will include all the nations. Above all, the poor and humble of the Lord will bear this hope. Such holy women as Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Judith and Esther kept alive the hope of Israel's salvation. the purest figure among them is Mary. (CCC 64)

4.7 At last through Jesus Christ

Christ, the Son of God made man, is the Father's one, perfect and unsurpassable Word. In him he has said everything; there will be no other word than this one.

(CCC 65B)

CONCLUSION

For he will repay according to each one's deeds: to those who by patiently doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

(ROMANS 2:6-7)

V. The

Transmission of

Revelations

Christ the Lord, in whom the entire Revelation of the most high God is summed up, commanded the apostles to preach the Gospel, which had been promised beforehand by the prophets, and which he fulfilled in his own person and promulgated with his own lips. In preaching the Gospel, they were to communicate the gifts of God to all men. This Gospel was to be the source of all saving truth and moral discipline." (CCC 75)

5.1 The Transmission of Divine Revelations:

3 ways

Type 1: Apostolic Preaching

Orally "by the apostles who handed on, by the spoken word of their preaching, by the example they gave, by the institutions they established, what they themselves had received - whether from the lips of Christ, from his way of life and his works, or whether they had learned it at the prompting of the Holy Spirit." (CCC 76A)

“In order that the full and living Gospel might always be preserved in the Church the apostles left bishops as their successors. They gave them their own position of teaching authority.”

(CCC 77)

Type 2: in writing "by those apostles and other men associated with the apostles who, under the inspiration of the same Holy Spirit, committed the message of salvation to writing"
(CCC 76A)

This is the Bible.

5.2. The Written Tradition
(Bible) and Transmission of
Apostolic Tradition Comes
from the same source

"Sacred Tradition and Sacred Scripture, then, are bound closely together, and communicate one with the other. For both of them, flowing out from the same divine well-spring, come together in some fashion to form one thing, and move towards the same goal."40 Each of them makes present and fruitful in the Church the mystery of Christ, who promised to remain with his own "always, to the close of the age (Matthew 28:20)。

(CCC 80)

Complementary & Completion

The Tradition here in question comes from the apostles and hands on what they received from Jesus' teaching and example and what they learned from the Holy Spirit. The first generation of Christians did not yet have a written New Testament, and the New Testament itself demonstrates the process of living Tradition. (CCC 83)

The Unity of Faith

Complementary & Completion

Tradition is to be distinguished from the various theological, disciplinary, liturgical or devotional traditions, born in the local churches over time. These are the particular forms, adapted to different places and times, in which the great Tradition is expressed. In the light of Tradition, these traditions can be retained, modified or even abandoned under the guidance of the Church's Magisterium.

(CCC 83B)

The dynamics of faith and its integration in local culture

Type 3: Apostolic Traditions and Ecclesial Traditions

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5.3 The heritage of faith entrusted to the whole of the Church

The apostles entrusted the "Sacred deposit" (1 Timothy 6:20) of the faith (the depositum fidei), contained in Sacred Scripture and Tradition, to the whole of the Church. "By adhering to [this heritage] the entire holy people, united to its pastors, remains always faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. So, in maintaining, practising and professing the faith that has been handed on, there should be a remarkable harmony between the bishops and the faithful."

(CCC 84)

5.4 The Magisterium of the Church Ensures a Correct Direction

Mindful of Christ's words to his apostles: "He who hears you, hears me (Luke 10:16) ." The faithful receive with docility the teachings and directives that their pastors give them in different forms.

(CCC 87)

5.4 The Magisterium of the Church Ensures a Correct Direction

There is an organic connection between our spiritual life and the dogmas. Dogmas are lights along the path of faith; they illuminate it and make it secure. Conversely, if our life is upright, our intellect and heart will be open to welcome the light shed by the dogmas of faith. (CCC 89)

The Apostles Creed

——To Correct and Avoid Mistakes

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
Creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day, He rose again.
He ascended to Heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

8. CONCLUSIÓN

It is clear therefore that, in the supremely wise arrangement of God, sacred Tradition, Sacred Scripture and the Magisterium of the Church are so connected and associated that one of them cannot stand without the others. Working together, each in its own way, under the action of the one Holy Spirit, they all contribute effectively to the salvation of souls clear.

(CCC 95)

VI. Sharīng

1. God has spoken to us through patriarchs (e.g. Abraham) and prophets; He even sent His only son Jesus Christ through incarnation to guide each of us personally and to proclaim the gospel of God's salvation.

— How should we respond to His calling? (Top Down)

2. Please share an experience that God sent you a message through an incident that happened in your life. (Bottom Up)