

002.Man's Desire for God
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Adult Catechism Class 2018



VOL 1: Part 1

I believe – we believe

Chapter 1:

God can be felt and experienced

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Class Structure:

Introduction

Scripture & Catechism

Faith Sharing

1. Introducción

If you believe Him, you
will feel Him

Once you feel Him, you
will trust that He's present

Many people can hear from the depths of their soul while they are in silence.....

In silence, I can feel there is a real divine presence. His name is God, Allah, Buddha.

Have you ever had the experience of delving deep into your soul? Did you experience God in your life?



Believe, and I will experience God in my life.

If I am able to experience God in my life, then I will trust Him more.

As a result I will enable others to experience and lead them to believe in God through my experience.

11. God is not
far away from us

1. St. Paul's Preaching @ Areopagus

From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’”

(Acts 17:26-28)

Some people may say, "God may be sitting high up in the skies. I can't even touch or feel Him, how can I believe that He's present?"

- Look up to the skies and sigh heavily, "Oh my God!"
- Pointing to the sky and condemn, "God, you are unfair!"
- In great delight: Even God helps me...

Man's desire for God is
originated from man himself

The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops searching for. (CCC 27)

In many ways, throughout history down to the present day, men have given expression to their quest for God in their religious beliefs and behavior: in their prayers, sacrifices, rituals, meditations, and so forth

(CCC 28)

2. Because God created everything, including us

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.**

(Genesis 1:1-8)

And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. 8 God called the dome Sky. *And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.*

(Genesis 1:1-8)

And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. **And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.**

(Genesis 1:9-19)

And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

(Genesis 1:9-19)

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky." So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm, and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." **And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.**

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind." And it was so. God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind, and the cattle of every kind, and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

(*Genesis 1:20-25*)

Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." God said, "See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so. God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. **And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.**

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude.

(**Genesis 1:26-2:1**)

And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. (Genesis 2:2-3)

Evolution : From Monkey to Man

But evolution cannot turn
"nothing" into "something"

creation has a
beginning

3. We can feel God's love for us

God gave us children
and parents

He loves us through
them

Now the man knew his wife Eve, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have produced a man with the help of the LORD." Next she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground.

(Genesis 4:1-2)

Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, for she said, "God has appointed for me another child instead of Abel, because Cain killed him." To Seth also a son was born, and he named him Enosh. **At that time people began to invoke the name of the Lord.**

(GENESIS 4:25-26)

We have many experiences of encountering God's love from our family members. These experiences allow us to feel God's presence in our **relationship** with them.

4. Sometimes we can see,
sometimes we cannot see

So he sent horses and chariots there and a great army; they came by night, and surrounded the city.

When an attendant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. His servant said, "Alas, master! What shall we do?" He replied, "Do not be afraid, for there are more with us than there are with them." Then Elisha prayed: "O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see." So the Lord opened the eyes of the servant, and he saw; the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. When the Arameans came down against him, Elisha prayed to the Lord, and said, "Strike this people, please, with blindness." So he struck them with blindness as Elisha had asked.

(2 Kings 6:14-18)

Although we cannot see God, we are definitely living our lives in God's love.

Like our children, sometimes they don't know that our love is always with them.

遊子吟

孟郊[唐]

慈母手中線，
遊子身上衣。
臨行密密縫，
意恐遲遲歸。
誰言寸草心，
報得三春暉。

Song of the Wanderer – Meng Jiao

Thread in the hand of a compassionate mother;

Clothes on a wandering son;

Just before his departure she sewed closely,

In her mind worrying about his late return,

Who would say that the heart of inch high grass,

Could repay the sunshine of deepest spring

5. Our hearts are not satisfied,
we pursue satisfaction

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions..

(Mark 10:17-22)

We are always pursuing for
the best in life, but we feel
lost after we attain them...

Clothes,

Cell phones,

Cars,

Girlfriends...

Only God completes us

!!!. ways to know
God

Created in God's image and called to know and love him, the person who seeks God discovers certain ways of coming to know him. These are also called proofs for the existence of God, not in the sense of proofs in the natural sciences, but rather in the sense of "converging and convincing arguments", which allow us to attain certainty about the truth. These "ways" of approaching God from creation have a twofold point of departure: the physical world, and the human person.

(CCC 31)

1. The world

The world: starting from movement,
becoming, contingency, and the world's order
and beauty, one can come to a knowledge of
God as the origin and the end of the universe.

(CCC 32)

The world is not a result of a
coincidence

And St. Augustine issues this challenge: Question the beauty of the earth, question the beauty of the sea, question the beauty of the air distending and diffusing itself, question the beauty of the sky. . . question all these realities. All respond: "See, we are beautiful." Their beauty is a profession [confessio]. These beauties are subject to change. Who made them if not the Beautiful One [Pulcher] who is not subject to change?

(CCC 32B)

2. Man

All creatures bear a certain resemblance to God, most especially man, created in the image and likeness of God. The manifold perfections of creatures - their truth, their goodness, their beauty all reflect the infinite perfection of God. Consequently we can name God by taking his creatures' perfections as our starting point, "for from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator" (Wisdom 13:5)

(CCC 41)

Human Conscience

- Is not born by ourselves
- Does not come from our parents (all parents desire their children to obey them and do good)

Human's external exploration

Some people may say, "God may be sitting high up in the skies. I can't even touch or feel Him, how can I believe that He's present?"

- Look up to the skies and sigh heavily, "Oh my God!"
- Pointing to the sky and condemn, "God, you are unfair!"
- In great delight, "Even God helps me..."

Man's desire for God comes
from man himself

Relationship between Man and Animals

- A spiritual world
- How do man, animals and God relate to one another?

Man's Pursuance of a Purposeful Life

—— Think about the purpose of my life: so that we are willing to include God in our lives

—— I am willing to sacrifice ourselves for Truth, Goodness and Beauty: to enable us know God

—— I desire to live forever and let the evil go away quickly, so that we will be like God

Man's exploration in Life and Death

- Where does Man come from : this helps us to know God
- Why do people die : this helps us to know God's way of living
- Where do people go after death : this allows us to explore the core essence of our lives – God

IV. Sharíng

1. Please share an experience that you have started to become aware that there should be a God or a Divine Person, and give an example.

2. Please share an experience of how you have felt God's presence in your life, and give an example.

3. Please share an experience of how you have encountered God through another person or with another person, and give an example.