

Message 0019 – Stairway to Spiritual Perfection
On November 24, 2010 @ 2:30 AM
Message Reading – @CB Durano
Date of Input and Sharing – August 13, 2020

Write this My beloved daughter. Faith has a way of deserting My most devout followers when they least expect it. This is important as it tests their faith so that they will come back into My heart all the more strong for the experience. Fear not, this is a trial which I allow My children to endure so that they will become stronger. It is not easy to retain your faith in Me, My children, as there are so many obstacles which block your devotion. You will, from time to time, feel a complete emptiness in your soul. This can leave you in an agitated state because you feel alone without a crutch. For My faithful followers you must understand this. I, despite the loneliness you may experience, am never far away. All of these episodes have one goal, to strengthen your faith in such a way so as to ensure that you move a new step towards Me each time.

Commentary

- As said by Jesus in this message: "Faith has a way of deserting My most devout followers when they least expect it"
- So we have heard from Jesus Himself that He allows leaving a soul, or abandoning a soul, or forgetting a soul, albeit, temporarily "for a moment" in order that the soul can become stronger. This would be a little mysterious to us but in God's wisdom there is always a purpose why
- **1st example** St. Therese of Avila. St. Therese would enjoy many visitations from our Lord and she would be rapt in ecstasy, with joy and happiness. We call it in theology as the hypostatic union, the charismatics would call it "slain by the Holy Spirit" still other terms would be like enveloped by the Holy Spirit, United with God, etc.
- When St. Therese entered the convent she has a maidservant with her as this was allowed in those days. Her inheritance goes with her. She comes from a landed family and she takes a lot of care of her beauty like her fingernails etc. even inside the convent
- But slowly she begins to understand that the cares of this world are really nothing
- The saints would experience these visitations many times in their lifetime. And then just suddenly, they will feel that God has left them, they feel so alone and abandoned
- The feeling of the absence of God is a great spiritual torture for their own souls. They will cry for days and weeks. Not even the comforts of riches can console St. Therese
- And yet, suddenly again God is back and the soul would feel the bliss of being united with God. So this is actually a test, a trial, that seemingly God is so absent in our lives in many ways and we feel nobody even comes to our rescue
- And yet also, what did Jesus say about this in this message? I, despite the loneliness you may experience, am never far away. So, conclusion, Jesus is there all the time, no matter what

- **2nd example:** the poem: **Footprints in the Sand** – there are many variations but I will use this version from 1978. This poem is already a classic in the modern times especially on teachings concerning spirituality.

An elderly man, who had lived his life and left this world to go and meet his Maker asked the Lord a question. "As I'm looking down on the paths I've trod, I see two sets of footprints on the easy paths. But down the rocky roads I see only one set of footprints. "Tell me, Lord, why did you let me go down all those hard paths alone?" The Lord smiled and simply replied, "Oh, my son, you've got that all wrong! I carried you over those hard paths."

- Can you imagine the power of God's revelation that all your life you feel God is so far away and now you are stunned knowing that **He carried you down in all the difficulties of life**

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This is what is called the stairway to spiritual perfection that is Heaven. It is a long stairway and can take a very long time to reach the upper steps. Each step can represent a new revelation into what lessons you must experience before you can attain the graces you need to elevate your souls to the spiritual perfection needed to enter My Father's Paradise. As each step is mounted a new awareness of which I expect of you is realised. Hard at times. Unfair, it may seem, at other times. But for each step you climb the more astute you become in understanding the truth of My teachings. Some climb these steps quickly while others take their time. Some of My devout followers may lose courage and back one step, two steps or three at a time. This is natural. Others who move too quickly gain a confidence that convinces them they understand all spiritual matters. But this is the Deceiver's Way of making you believe and accept this false confidence. All gifts bestowed on you can only come from Me. They are given to you, My faithful followers, out of My boundless love for you. You must never assume that because your faith is strong that this is all your doing. Yes, your faith may be strong because of your tenderness of heart. Yet this is also a gift from Me. You must, in order to reach the top step, be humble in your love for Me. Show virtue at all times.

Commentary

- **3rd example:** This next one is an NDE Story (Near Death Experience) NDE's are usually persons declared clinically dead by doctors and then they become alive again.

A few years back I watched a video of a story of a young mother who committed suicide because her life is so difficult (can't find the video anymore). She is a single mother, her husband left her with 3 kids to support all alone. Life is so terrible for her; working and rearing small kids at the same time with very few friends to ask for help. Darkness came to her mind and one night she overdosed herself with sleeping pills and she died. Her soul traveled in a dark tunnel and at the end of the tunnel is a Being of Light and the light enveloped her entire soul with so much love, peace and acceptance. The Being of Light asked her: What do you want? Why are you here?

She replied, my life is so difficult, I am so desperate and hopeless so I killed myself. The voice answered: But your time has not yet come. Then at that very moment she is about to reply she heard the cry of her youngest son crying and looking for her. She had a sudden burst of guilt and was so ashamed for being so selfish in front of the Being of Light who is so full of love and compassion so that she decided to go back because she cannot bear the cry of her son she left behind. She woke up in the hospital and later on as interviewed she said that the love of God can never compare all the sorrows that we suffer here on earth. And her life as a mother has never been the same again. This time she raised her children with so much love and joy nothing can stop her to do her obligation of loving; and she has even forgiven her husband.

- Here, the mother was so darkened because of frustrations. Her realization is that even with all the darkness of her life, God still gives His blessings. The blessing of children that God gave her

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Show confidence in your faith by all means as this is pleasing to Me. But never fall into the trap of believing you know the full mysteries of the Divine Realm. As humans born with original sin, only time will reveal these mysteries to you, My children. Strive always to accept everything even the trials I may send you, as a gift from Me. All my gifts are bestowed to make you strong in your love for Me.

Commentary

- **4th example:** St. Francis of Assisi
During the days when the Order of Friars Minor has already grown by leaps and bounds, our founder became even more frustrated especially on matters of following the vow of poverty. One time when he visited a community of friars and he saw a house under construction, he was so furious why are they building a home, we are supposed to be mendicants, beggars so called so that he began destroying the frames and the bricks and throwing them away.

After he was done one of the brothers told him, Holy Father Francis it is not ours, the people did this for us. And he was so overcome with shame and sorrow retreating in caves and praying, lamenting, crying to the Lord on what is now the state of the order he established. And the Lord appeared to him and said: Francis, this is not your Order, this is my Order. (In BoT, this is not your Message Maria, this is My Message) Thus, making Francis understand to follow the will of God. Francis learned from this so much and understood that charity is nobler than the rigidity of following the vows.

At another time, again, with so much frustration, with all the bickering(s) in the order, (infighting from within, disagreements, confusion) Francis has now resigned as the Superior of the Order, with so much sickness in body, so decimated by the rigors of fasting and now so frail and sick, and nearly blind, he would always pray in caves, and he cannot rest because the rats

in the cave would bite his fingers when he sleeps and he said that he wanted to die! Then an angel appeared with a violin and told him I will entertain you with music. And the angel played the violin and the music was so beautiful Francis said: Stop! Because of the enormous beauty of the heavenly melody he said that his soul will separate from his body and he would die if the angel will continue to play the music.

- So in the above examples 1-4 are all encounters with God because Spirituality is an encounter with God
- So after all, Francis really does not want to die because he stopped the angel from playing
- What he really wants is to escape from the frustrations because of the problems besetting the Order. From then on, Francis would become even more charitable, understanding, and so forgiving of his erring brothers and he waited patiently until Sister Death comes in
- Francis learned a lesson from that beautiful experience that nothing of sorrow in this world can compare with the glory of Paradise
- The same for all of us, as Jesus said here in this Message 19: "All of these episodes have one goal, to strengthen your faith in a such a way so as to ensure that you move a new step towards Me each time"
- And I am very sure we can again identify with this in our lives as we face the day to day problems and we feel so abandoned by everyone but the experience will transcend us all and we emerge stronger in the end
- Growth in spirituality is like rearing and caring for the growth of an infant; first feeding with milk, then soft food and then the regular solid food and the baby grows
- There is no such thing as instant conversion in spirituality. It is always a slow process most of the time. If in one night you shed torrents of tears for your sins after a seminar. The next day you are good, one week, one month, 3 months you are still good. But, perhaps even before the year is over you are back to your old self
- I forgot the name of this saint, she promised to always attend the mass in the morning and she did it during the good days in summer. But during winter, she cannot wake up early because it is so cold she wants to sleep longer, and you know what? She is carried by her angels and she would wake up and be able to attend the mass. She is physically carried by her angels and she would wake up in the Church to attend the mass
- So God is assisting us in our climb towards the next step in the ladder. Do not worry if we fall because the good part is that in every fall we rise and God understands our efforts. God sees how hard we try and that alone gives us the merits in the increase of our spirituality
- When Jesus found out that after the horrors of the revelation of His sufferings in Gethsemane, the disciples were sleeping. He said: the flesh is weak, but the Spirit is willing. He was not mad at His disciples
- So even just to attend and participate in this Crusade of Prayers, God already sees in us the efforts and the sacrifices that we expend and that alone is already pleasing before the eyes of God

- If you promise to pray the rosary daily, it so difficult in the beginning because you have to modify your lifestyle that you are already comfortable about in order to have time to pray
- Lastly, spirituality is not only about prayer. It is about everything that we do, with the right intentions, working with clean hands (without corruption), etc. doing our duties and responsibilities joyfully and without ill will
- So as we go on, we climb a step higher in the Stairway to Spiritual Perfection; and whether we feel so dry or alive in prayer, **GOD HAS NEVER LEFT US**
- The climb to the lofty heights in spirituality can even last a lifetime
- Most of us may not even reach the Spiritual Perfection but the

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I am so very proud of all My children who believe in Me and show Me honour and respect. So that I can lift you up to the full glory of My Father's Paradise you need to aspire to the glory of perfect union in Me. To do this, My children, takes a little time and requires patience before you yield to the total abandonment of your soul to Me. Once that happens you come part of My mystical body for eternity. Surrender, My children, to My absolute pure love and you will never have to look back or fear for you will be safe in My arms. Keep strong My faithful children even in the face of obstacles for I will never desert My beloved devoted followers. Ever.

Your Loving Saviour Jesus Christ