

Questions (And Answers) of Faith

Many ask, if Jesus loves us, why does God permit hunger, sickness and war in the world? I ask why do we bring these unto ourselves? We have it in our power to end all the wars, feed the hungry, and cure most of the sick. When someone like my father dies of lung cancer, was it because God had forsaken him? Or because he smoked 3 packs of poisonous cigarettes a day? How much of the bad things in our lives do we bring upon ourselves? How much of the killing, starvation, privation and devastation has the world brought on itself? The fact that mankind made a mess of things for the last 2000 years doesn't in the least bit shake my Faith. Had we kept the Faith, things would be different.

Perhaps it doesn't shake my Faith because I don't believe these horrors exist because Jesus has failed us, but because we have failed Jesus. We have failed to follow Jesus' teachings. The world has had two thousand years from the time of Christ to get it right and follow Jesus' footsteps, but even counting all Christians less than half the world follows Jesus today. No wonder the world is a mess!

And the fault lies mostly with us Roman Catholics. Jesus intended us to be more than just Sunday Church Goers. An hour a week, \$20 in the collection basket, a prayer before bedtime. Salvation here I come. *Do you honestly believe that?* Really? I don't believe that. And if you believe that you are kidding yourself and risking your eternal Salvation. There's more to Salvation than Sunday Mass.

And that's assuming you are a practicing Catholic. Many, many Catholics do not even go to Mass every week, give nothing to the Church and pray infrequently. I've talked to many experiencing a "lapse of faith", and they almost always blame it on some life event, a death in the family, a divorce, the loss of a job. Times when they felt that Jesus Christ or The Church did not come to their rescue.

Jesus never told us: *"follow me and you will have an easy life"*. How many Apostles were Martyred?

All through Scripture we see where it is precisely those who follow Jesus through good times and bad, through happiness and sadness, through "thick and thin", that reap the rewards of Faith, Salvation and Happiness in Heaven. Not riches and wealth on earth. *Do you recall Jesus' words about a rich man entering Heaven?* If you think Jesus has abandoned you, then try *practicing a little more Faith*.

That's right, I said *try practicing a little more Faith*. Try adding a few minutes (or a few more minutes) of prayer each day. Not for you, but for the sick and hungry and the homeless in this world. Put one more can of food into the Charity Collection at your Church on Sunday. Wear your Cross outside of your shirt instead of hidden inside it. Afraid that's not "politically correct", then shame on you! If you stopped going to Mass, start again. Now. This Sunday. If you go to Mass, take a non-practicing Catholic friend by the hand and bring them to Mass with you. *Why not try going to Mass every day?*

There are over 1 billion Catholics in the world today. If each of us billion Catholics started to actually live as Jesus wanted us to and to spread the Word and His Teachings as he instructed us to do over 2000 years ago, then we would see a new world filled with peace and love *just as Jesus had intended*.

We need active not passive Catholics. We must be more active and aggressive in spreading The Word as Jesus told us. We must be more visible in our good works and healing for all of mankind to see. If we Catholics lead by example the rest of the world will follow. *Time to start living as Jesus intended!*

God Bless!

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