

Questions (And Answers) of Faith

Some 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 wars, feed the hungry, and cure almost all sickness. 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 on ourselves? How much of the killing, starvation, privation and devastation has the world brought on itself? The fact that mankind has made a mess of things doesn't in the least bit shake my Faith.

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, not just Catholics, less than half the world follows Jesus today. And we have even seen that many of the various Christian religions differ in major beliefs from the Catholic Church that the Son of God founded.

The fault lies mostly with us, the 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 and *Salvation Here I Come*. Really? *Do you honestly believe that?* Who do you think you are kidding? Not God. God knows. You are just kidding yourself and risking your eternal Salvation.

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 said; "*follow me and you will have a perfect life*". But Jesus will help you survive the bad times.

In fact, all through Scripture and History 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. The rewards of Salvation and Happiness in Heaven. Not riches and wealth on earth. Do you recall Jesus' words about the camel, the eye of a needle and a rich man getting to Heaven? If you think Jesus has abandoned you, then try praying longer and more often. *Try practicing more Faith.*

That's right, I said *practicing more Faith*. Try adding 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", shame on you! If you have stopped going to Mass, start again. Now. This Sunday. When you go to Mass, take a friend by the hand and bring them to Mass with you. Try performing a *Random Act of Christianity* every single day of the week.

There are over 1 billion Catholics in the world today. Faith is contagious. If we each took one non-Catholic friend by the hand to Church with us this week, we'd have 2 billion Catholics in no time. If each of us billion Catholics started to actually live the way Jesus taught us to and to spread the Word and His Teachings as he instructed us to do over two thousand years ago, then we would start to see a new world that was filled with peace and love just as Jesus intended.

We need active, not passive, Catholics. If those people born into other religions are not practicing Catholics when they grow up, it's the fault of those of us who are practicing Catholics. We need to be more active and aggressive in spreading The Word as Jesus told us to. We must be more visible in our good works and healing for all of mankind to see. *We must all embrace the New Evangelization!*

Stop Wars. Ban Abortions. Diminish Divorces. Eliminate Human Trafficking. Love Your Neighbor.

No one ever said the path of the Roman Catholic Faith would be easy to follow or would be a journey without sacrifice. However, let's put it into proper perspective. What's at stake is your Salvation. Christ intended there to be "*one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism*". The Church that Jesus created upon The Rock of Peter to spread that message to all men and nations was The Roman Catholic Church. Jesus intended that we be Roman Catholic in more than name. *He intended that we live our Faith.*

Jesus is alive and well and waiting for you at your Church. Go out and spread The Word. God Bless!