

Revelation & Faith

Preliminary Points

- ❖ **CCC 221** “By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange.”
- ❖ **1 Timothy 2:3-4** “This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- ❖ **1 Corinthians 3:9** “God’s co-workers...”

Small Group Discussion

- Do you have a favorite Scripture passage?
- What are obstacles to reading Scripture?
- What stood out to you from the pre-session reading, *Dei Verbum*?

DV 2. In His goodness and wisdom God chose to **reveal Himself** and to make known to us the hidden purpose of **His will** by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to **share in the divine nature**. Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God **out of the abundance of His love speaks to men as friends** and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself. This plan of revelation is realized by deeds and words having an inner unity: the deeds wrought by God in the history of salvation manifest and confirm the teaching and realities signified by the words, while the words proclaim the deeds and clarify the mystery contained in them. By **this revelation then, the deepest truth about God and the salvation of man shines out for our sake in Christ,** who is both the mediator and the fullness of all revelation.

Two Sources of Revelation

- Sacred Scripture
- Sacred Tradition

Outline of Scripture

1. God made us
2. Our sin separates us
3. God promises to restore us
4. God fulfills His promise in Jesus
5. Jesus gives us grace & the Church

Core Message = The person of God

Group Activity Scripture

- Luke 1:63
- John 15:15-16
- 2 Timothy 3:16

John 21:24-25 “It is this disciple [John] who testifies to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. There are also many other things that Jesus did, but if these were to be described individually, I do not think the whole world would contain the books that would be written.”

2 Thessalonians 2:15 “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by letter.”

DV 7 “But in order to keep the Gospel forever whole and alive within the Church, the Apostles left bishops as their successors, "handing over" to them "the authority to teach in their own place.”

2 Timothy 2:2 “And what you heard from me through many witnesses entrust to faithful people who will have the ability to teach others as well.” Handing down of teaching authority.

Group Activity Catechism

- CCC 68
- CCC 136

2 Peter 1:20-21 “First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by the impulse of man, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

1 John 1:1-4 “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life—for the life was made visible; we have seen it and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was made visible to us— what we have seen and heard we proclaim now to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; for our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We are writing this so that our joy may be complete.”

CCC 85-90 Teaching authority / Interpretation

DV 11. Those divinely revealed realities which are contained and presented in Sacred Scripture have been committed to writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For holy mother Church, relying on the belief of the Apostles, holds that the books of both the Old and New Testaments in their entirety, with all their parts, are sacred and canonical because written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, they have God as their author and have been handed on as such to the Church herself. In composing the sacred books, God chose men and while employed by Him they made use of their powers and abilities, so that with Him acting in them and through them, they, as true authors, consigned to writing everything and only those things which He wanted.

How to read Sacred Scripture CCC 109-119

1. Prayer
2. Literal Sense
 - What is the literary form (poetry, narrative, historical)?
 - What is the historical & cultural context?

- The Divine pedagogy (the gradual unveiling of truth)
3. Spiritual Sense
- How does it point to Jesus?
 - How does it inform me to live?
 - What does it say about my journey towards heaven?
4. In line with the rest of Scripture and teachings of the Church.

CCC 142 *By his Revelation*, "the invisible God, from the fullness of his love, addresses men as his friends, and moves among them, in order to invite and receive them into his own company." The adequate response to this invitation is faith.

CCC 143 *By faith*, man completely submits his intellect and his will to God. With his whole being man gives his assent to God the revealer. Sacred Scripture calls this human response to God, the author of revelation, "the obedience of faith".

Job 42:5 "By hearsay I had heard of you, but now my eye has seen you."

CCC 162, 1 Timothy 1:18-19 The perseverance of faith

CCC 162 Faith is an entirely free gift that God makes to man. We can lose this priceless gift.... To live, grow and persevere in the faith until the end we must nourish it with the **word of God**; we must beg the Lord to **increase our faith**; it must be "**working through charity**," abounding in **hope**, and **rooted in the faith** of the Church.

Fr. Spitzer <https://magiscenter.com/>

CCC 157 "Faith is certain. It is more certain than all human knowledge because it is founded on the very word of God who cannot lie."

CCC 163 Faith makes us taste in advance the light of the beatific vision, the goal of our journey here below. Then we shall see God "face to face", "as he is". So faith is already the beginning of eternal life:

CCC 164 Now, however, "we walk by faith, not by sight"; we perceive God as "in a mirror, dimly" and only "in part". Even though enlightened by Him in whom it believes, faith is often lived in darkness and can be put to the test. The world we live in often seems very far from the one promised us by faith. Our experiences of evil and suffering, injustice and death, seem to contradict the Good News; they can shake our faith and become a temptation against it.

CCC 165 It is then we must turn to the *witnesses of faith*: to Abraham, who "in hope... believed against hope"; to the Virgin Mary, who, in "her pilgrimage of faith", walked into the "night of faith" in sharing the darkness of her son's suffering and death; and to so many others: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."