



PERFECTED IN GRACE:

Part 4: Life in the Spirit

LENTEN REFLECTION FOR THE TASTE PROGRAM – MAR 7TH, 2024

Opening Prayer

2

On Zion sinners are in dread, trembling grips the impious; “Who of us can live with the consuming fire? Who of us can live with the everlasting flames?” He who practices virtue and speaks honestly, who spurns what is gained by oppression, brushing his hands free of contact with a bribe, stopping his ears lest he hear of bloodshed, closing his eyes lest he look on evil.
(Isaiah 33:13-15)

Perfected in Grace Series

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- ▶ *Feb 15th - The Lord is With You*
- ▶ *Feb 22nd – Those in whom the Spirit Dwells*
- ▶ *Feb 29th – Life in Christ; ~~Life in the Spirit~~*
- ▶ *March 7th - Life in the Spirit*
- ▶ *March 14th*
 - ▶ *At the Service of Communion*
 - ▶ *More Perfectly Bound to the Church*
- ▶ *March 21st – The Source and Summit of Christian Life*

Life in the Spirit

4

- ▶ *Short Review*
- ▶ ***The Life of Virtue (Especially Love)***
 - ▶ *Virtue in General*
 - ▶ *Theological Virtues*
 - ▶ *Cardinal Virtues*
- ▶ *Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving.*
- ▶ *A look at next week*
- ▶ *Questions*

This adornment of the soul,
clothing it in beauty,
rendering it an object of His
delight and love

Begins in Baptism

**Baptism begins
Theosis and
incorporates us into
the Body of Christ**





THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit

7

- ▶ Wisdom
- ▶ Understanding
- ▶ Counsel
- ▶ Fortitude
- ▶ Knowledge
- ▶ Piety
- ▶ Fear of the Lord

They complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations. (CCC 1831)

What about Virtue?

8

if one loves righteousness, whose works are virtues, She teaches temperance and prudence, justice and fortitude, and nothing in life is more useful than these.
(Wisdom 8:7)

The Life of Virtue: Cooperation with the Holy Spirit

- ▶ The gifts of the Spirit are bound together in love so that whoever has [the theological virtue of] love has all the Gifts of the Spirit. **If you do not have love, then the gifts of the Spirit will lie dormant in your soul.** (*Suma* I, II, 68, 5)
- ▶ the practice of a life of virtue is the key that unlocks the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. (*Suma* I, II, 65, 3)

Partakers of the Divine Nature

10

His divine power has **granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, that through these you may escape from the corruption that is in the world because of passion, and **become partakers of the divine nature**. (2 Pt 1:3-4)

From Faith to Love

11

For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your **faith** with **virtue**, **virtue** with **knowledge**, **knowledge** with **self-control**, **self-control** with **endurance**, **endurance** with **devotion**, **devotion** with **mutual affection**, **mutual affection** with **love**.

(2 Peter 1:5-7)

The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love

12

The human virtues are **rooted in the theological virtues**, which adapt man's faculties for participation in the divine nature: for the theological virtues relate directly to God. They dispose Christians to live in a relationship with the Holy Trinity. They have the One and Triune **God for their origin, motive, and object.** (CCC 1812)

The Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, and Love

... are the **foundation of Christian moral activity**; they animate it and give it its special character. They **inform and give life to all the moral virtues**. They are **infused by God into the souls** of the faithful to make them capable of acting as his children and of meriting eternal life. They are the pledge of the presence and action of the Holy Spirit in the faculties of the human being. (c.f., CCC 1813)

The Cardinal Virtues

14

Four virtues play a pivotal role and accordingly are called "cardinal"; all the others are grouped around them. They are: **prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance**. "If anyone loves righteousness, [Wisdom's] labors are virtues; for she teaches temperance and prudence, justice, and courage." ... (CCC 1805)

The Cardinal Virtues

15

Prudence ... disposes practical reason to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it; ... Prudence is "right reason in action," ... it guides the other virtues by setting rule and measure. It is prudence that immediately guides the judgment of conscience (c.f. CCC 1806)

The Cardinal Virtues - continued

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Justice ... consists in the constant and firm will to give their due to God and neighbor. (c.f. CCC 1807)

Fortitude is the moral virtue that ensures firmness in difficulties and constancy in the pursuit of the good. It strengthens the resolve to resist temptations and to overcome obstacles in the moral life. (c.f. CCC 1808)

Temperance ... moderates the attraction of pleasures and provides balance in the use of created goods ... mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable. (c.f. CCC 1809)

Go Forward or Go Back

17

I insist again: your foundation must not consist of prayer and contemplation alone: unless you acquire the virtues and praise them, you will always be dwarfs; and please God no worse may befall you than making no progress, for you know that to stop is to go back - if you love, you will never be content to come to a standstill.

(St. Teresa of Avila, *Interior Castle*: 7, 4, 13)

The Three Pillars of Lent Powered by Grace!

18

- ▶ **Prayer – Pray in Faith, Hope, and Love**
- ▶ **Almsgiving – Justice and fortitude directed by prudence and driven by love.**
- ▶ **Fasting – Temperance and fortitude directed by prudence and driven by love.**

Next time:

19

- ▶ **At the Service of Communion**
 - ▶ **A little bit about Charismatic Gifts**
 - ▶ **Holy Orders and Matrimony**
- ▶ **More Perfectly Bound to the Church**

Questions?