

The Supernatural Gift of Faith

Every Catholic should have the *Act of Faith* memorized.

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. I believe that Thy divine Son became man, died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them, Who canst neither deceive nor be deceived. Amen.

(9) What is **Faith**?

Faith is a supernatural gift of God, which enables us to believe without doubting whatever God has revealed.

(10) Why must you believe whatever God has revealed?

I must believe whatever God has revealed because God is the very truth, and can neither deceive nor be deceived.

Some Essential Characteristics of Faith

- ⇒ It is *supernatural*. Man can't gain it on his own or give it to another. It is above man's nature.
- ⇒ It is a free *gift* from God (an undeserved grace).
- ⇒ It *enables* (will) man to *believe* (mind). It is an immaterial reality of the soul.
- ⇒ It must be *firm* (without doubting or denying).
- ⇒ It is God's *self-revelation*. Thus, it is a prerequisite to *know* (mind!) and to *love* (will!) God.

Salvation Depends on Faith.

- ✘ Jesus Christ unequivocally teaches faith is necessary for salvation: "He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved: but he that believeth not shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16).
- ✘ The Holy Ghost affirms this in His inerrant and inspired word: "Without faith it is impossible to please God" (Hebrews 11:6).
- ✘ St. Paul explains that *IF* one continues in the faith he will reach Heaven (cf. Colossians 1:22-23).
- ✘ St. Peter teaches that the end (purpose) of faith is the salvation of the soul (cf. 1 Peter 1:4-9).

Pray for Faith!

- ✘ "*Increase our faith*" (Lk 17:5).
- ✘ "*I do believe Lord, help my unbelief*" (Mk 9:23).