



# WINNOWING FAN

The Spiritual Life according to the Fathers  
and Saints of the Catholic Church in  
preparation for Christ's Second Coming.

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## NO ONE HAS AN EXCUSE

Man is a rational animal. He is partly animal and partly human. His soul dwells in his rational element. And his soul has two faculties, the intellect and the free will.

The intellect of man's soul is made to the likeness of God. And God had created man's intellect in a way that man can know his creator, first in the natural way and with grace in a supernatural way.

Man's natural intellect can know God through nature. This is natural theology. Man can look at nature, especially the firmament, and see that nature proclaims the glory of God. In fact all of nature proclaims the nature and characteristics of God. From the stone we can learn that God has being, from the flower that He has Beauty, from the birds that He has music and from man that He has intelligence. Put together, nature shows that there is a God, that He is good and that He cares for man by providing for him. And God wants us to behave like Him; doing to others what we want others to do to ourselves and not doing to others what we do not want others to do to ourselves.

If one uses his intellect studying nature seriously it clearly appears that only the Catholic God exists. The rest of the gods are nothing but a compilation of

indistinguishable piles of hodgepodge.

To reach this end we need the science of philosophy to reason out correctly. And the process will lead us to only one and the same conclusion. This is just a natural process. Greater proofs of the uniqueness of the Catholic God is further viewed with the help of grace. Here there is absolutely no way in which any other god could exist which makes us conclude with St. Augustine that there is only one God. The rest are devils.

Aristotle introduced philosophy. All religions know philosophy exists. How come no religion had ever checked the truth of their religions and the veracity of their gods through philosophy? Is it the fear that philosophy will reveal their errors? In fact philosophy is not needed. The mere use of natural reason can show us that there is a God and who is the right God and the right religion. This is the reason Pope Benedict had been urging man to live by the rule of reason.

As Chesterton wrote: if everybody just sits down and thinks, the world would become Catholic. But as his friend Hilaire Belloc saw during his time, mankind was no longer using its head.

## FAITH AND CHARITY

There is a difference between Faith and Charity. Faith, being knowledge, reaches reality only by means of judgments to which it is required to give interior assent. With Faith, the mind brings in the object of knowledge and gives an assent to it. Since the object of the mind must come into the mind it becomes connatural to the mind. If we think of a table, the thought of the table becomes spiritual when it is thought of. Its restriction is if the object of the mind is higher than the intellect. The intellect will naturally drag down the object down to its own level. This is what happens when we think of God. Because God cannot fit in our intellect we have to reduce Him to fit in....and that would not be the true image of God.

While Charity, being love, casts us upon reality just as it is outside of us, in pure simplicity. The heart goes out to become like the object of its love. If we love money our hearts go out towards money and become like money. But if we love God, our hearts go out towards God and become like God. That is why St. Thomas goes on to observe that it is better here below to love God rather than to know Him. To know God we have to remain on our level, to love God we can rise up to His level.

## *The CATHOLIC PREACHER is different.*

Today, anybody who gets hold of a copy of Scriptures becomes a preacher. This was common among the Protestants. But today it has become common among Catholics. Lay preachers who have not studied Scriptures even for a semester are preaching and getting a large following.

Of course, we expect Catholic priests to be the official preachers of the Catholic Church but sadly many of them are not doing it right. Let us see how Christ preached. For the listener to have Faith, which should be the fruit of preaching, the preacher must have two kinds of lights which are inseparable and complementary. The first light is called prophetic light. Christ had this and this is necessary so that the preacher can present clearly what is to be believed. If the preacher has this prophetic light that can come from God alone, the listener will know exactly what is to be believed.

The second is the sanctifying light by which God's grace helps us to make an assent to what we should believe. These two lights are the foundation and source of all justification by which we merit heaven.

In the Gospel of Matthew, the first light of prophecy consists of two steps; the light of prophecy enables the preacher to preach all the commands of Christ and how to obey them. A preacher without this light cannot accomplish this first phase of preaching. The first part of the light of prophecy is called the light of revelation and the second is called the light of inspiration. Both are needed for the preacher to preach well and for the listener to get the revelation right.

The sanctifying light comes in the form of graces that will enable the speaker to move the mind and will of the listener and on the part of the listener to assent and consent in cooperation with the graces he receives.

If the preacher does not have these lights, the preacher will preach nothing and the listener will learn nothing.

### **FOLLOW THE LOGIC**

Christ prophesied that at the end times there will hardly be Faith in the world. But Faith is the sign of the predestined who are destined to go to heaven. Therefore, most of those who will be on earth at the end times would be reprobates. The few predestined are necessary to make up the small Church

at the end times.

If this is the case, the sign of the end times would be that all the activities of men are grievously sinful activities of the reprobate that would make the world a horrible place to live in. The world will be ruled by people imposing their own lawless will on everybody. It will be an era of the rule of lawlessness. Only those who know the Divine Law would notice this because all laws observed by everybody are against God's law but approved by man. And like everything made man, this is total confusion.

### **THINKING IS PRIOR TO BELIEVING.**

Many are thinking of the truths of the Catholic Church, like the priests and seminarians and nuns and ordinary laymen. But how many are making their acts of Faith after thinking. It is possible to think without believing. To believe several more processes are needed after thinking.

Thinking is prior to believing. No one believes anything unless he has first thought that it is to be believed. Then the free will still has to approve the assent made by the intellect to its own

thoughts. And only after the free will has consented to the thought of the intellect can the intellect believe.

To convince the free will to give its approval the intellect must give the free will very convincing reasons why the mind must give its assent to its object.

If the reason is not convincing the free will might not give its consent thus preventing the intellect in giving its assent of Faith.

### **HOW GOD SAVES SOULS**

God, alone by His mercy, saves. And He does it this way. He moves the intellect of the soul to believe the preaching he is hearing. Then God moves the free will of the elect to consent to the thought. Then the intellect consents to the thought and makes the act of Faith that justifies a soul.

In the case of the elect, i.e. those predestined to heaven, it is not a choice whether to believe or not to believe. The elect is so prepared and disposed to believe. That is how the mind and free will were made by God.....to believe. And these faculties are simply going towards its natural goal.

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