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Spiritual Maturity

Week 8

Focus of week 8:

This week is blowing its trumpet declaring the start of the season of great salvation of the fast of our Lord Himself. Our fathers of old used to await it with great eagerness. They would change their location to find a secluded place to be alone with the Lord in the wilderness of His fast for us. They realized the great many ministries hidden in this season, which our Lord did for us when He took the flesh of our humanity and He entered with it into the wilderness. He faced the devil, that serpent of old, and He conquered and won victory over him so He may give us this victory; not in a general figure, but to each as his inner being needs, looking for the weak part inside to free it from the authority of sin and the devil. This place therefore becomes His and a place for the work of His grace as we understood last week.

We will not leave to another secluded place as our fathers did, but we understand from what they did the sanctity of this season and its utmost value. We notice the greatness of what we have in this lent: true illumination, understanding, and enabling power. It is now time to evaluate and question our judgment of the most important thing that essentially needs to be in us, that must grow continually and become the subject of the focus of our heart and our thoughts at all times. This focus starts this lent then continues for the whole year, and rather the rest of our days until we meet Him. These are the strong foundations on which is built the whole building of my spiritual life, and they become the place that contains Him and knows to establish a relationship with Him and also to announce Him and declare Him to people.

Let us start this Preparation Week (first week of lent) to further understand this matter and we will continue through the journey of lent. The following steps, we are in the habit of now, will help us.

Step 1: Read the passage and answer some questions (written) that will help you get a message out of the passage. This step is only to help you but if you feel that connected to the verses in a different way or a personal way then don't let these questions limit you.

Step 2: Pray from the passage or pray about the passage.

Day1: Sunday February 19, 2012

Know the God of your father

In your opinion, what is the most important foundation on which I ought to build my life and my relationship with my God?

Step 1: Read 1 Chronicles 28:6-10

Whom did God entrust to build a house for Him? What was his father's command to him before he builds it?

How about me, do I know my God and increase in knowing Him? And is it possible without this knowledge to be able to build a house for Him inside me?

Question for Children: Solomon was David's youngest child, but God chose him to become the king, and to do a great mission (building a house for Him). Why was he specifically the one chosen? Do I like to become like him?

Step2: Pray

My God, my mind knows a lot about you, but how poor is my heart in knowing You. in

Without this knowledge I cannot build any true building that will satisfy me and bear fruit me and for others also. So please let me search for You anxiously and hungrily that I may know You more and more!

Day 2: Monday February 20 ,2012

Who is My God and how to know Him?

Do you have a diverse relationship, with the diversity and richness of our knowledge of our God as the Trinity? Have you applicably experienced the role of each of the three Persons in your life?

Step 1: Read Hosea 12:3-5

Now that we learned the importance of knowing our God a true and complete knowledge, we will see examples to learn. This passage talks about Jacob and how he deals with God as the Trinity, even though he was in the Old Testament, before the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

Jacob learned how to diverse the ways of reaching the God of his father, so what did he do? Do I try to learn to struggle with all my might sometimes as he did? Do I cry and incline His mercy at times? And do I talk with Him at other times?

He also learned to take from all the richness he had in the God of his father, as it is written “He spoke to us”. Do I try to speak to each Person of the Trinity to take all I have at my God depending on my needs? In your opinion, how can you do this applicably?

Question for children:

I believe that you know who to ask when you need something specific, weather to go to mom or to dad. You also know in what way you should ask. Do you deal the same way with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit? Let us learn this.

Step 2: Pray

My God how does my inner being need to attain the depth it has in You. Your Holy Trinity fulfills all its needs and satisfies it. Let my inner being learn from You how to discover You as the Trinity, and how to diverse the ways of following after You to find You.

Day 3: Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Where do I find the knowledge of God as a foundation of building my life

Do you remember what you learned about your God in the sacrament of Baptism? Have you Experienced this knowledge? What did you do for this knowledge to grow?

Step1: read mark 1:9-13

Everything that Jesus did in his life on earth was for us, and because he took the body of our Humanity, everything he did for us is given to us (our inheritance), I have the right to Know his secrets and live by them if I unite myself with him and kept my relationship alive with him.

What did Jesus see and hear in His baptism? Where did He go right after?

Why was the first place he goes to before his ministry and after his baptism is the wilderness? Was he sustaining and living what He took in Baptism as a foundation for his life and ministry? What do we learn or take from this if all he did was for us?

Question for Children: Have you heard what the priest says while baptising a baby? That's what he said when he put you in the baptismal fountain. In your opinion how would my relationship with God be according to what the priest said in baptism and gave me a new name for him?

Step 2: Pray

Oh God, how rich are you and how rich are your gifts and graces, you have put a foundation for my life and relationship with you since childhood, so renew my knowledge of you and Increase it, help me to ask more of it and to take care of it to secure the building Of my life and take it higher and higher.

Day 4: Wednesday, February 22, 2012

How to deepen the foundation of my spiritual building

God created us on his Trinitarian image. In your opinion, how will you spiritual, humanitarian and family life be in the light of your understanding to the trinity, your partnership with it and your existence in it.

Step 1: read 17:20-23

Is the trinity harmonious in its work? If I partnership with it, is it going to reflect on The harmony of my life, thinking and decision? If we were one with the Father, the Son And the Holy spirit as it is written, then how much will my life be in harmony and controlled?

Because we are naturally created on god's image, our souls are always thirst for glory, So, do I take the Glory that's his or do I as for the world's glory? According to the text How do I get this glory?

Question for Children: God the Father is always in heaven, we knew more about him from The life of His Son Jesus through his life on earth between us, we are on His image, so does Everyone who sees me know more about God? How do I achieve that in your opinion?

Step 2: Pray

Oh how Your love embarrasses me when you reveal to me what is inside you for me And what a high position and a great glory you have given me, how do I deny all that and not seek to deepen my knowledge of you and my partnership with Your trinity day after Day, so please help me.

Day 5: Thursday February 23, 2012

Paying attention to all aspects of spiritual foundation together.

We are still talking about the foundation of our spiritual life, how do I know it, where and how does this knowledge grow and deepen. Here we try to know more about the ways to keep its continuous effectiveness in my life through paying equal attention to all the certain ways to reach that foundation.

Step 1: read Revelation 21:14-20

What is that city? What are the different aspects that reflect the beauty of the foundations and its image?

In the beginning of the text, it talks about 12 foundations (12 is a number that resembles Perfection, i.e. all together and not one missing) then towards the end, it explained about Them, was there a foundation that was forgotten? Do you do that in your spiritual life's foundations?

In your opinion, why did the bible care about explaining the details of the foundations and cared about its embellishments with precious jewels more than explaining the city itself or its embellishments despite that the foundations are always underground?

Question for children: whoever wants to excel has to care equally about studying all the subjects he/she has. Is he/she supposed to stop studying one subject just because he/ she loves another one? Do you care equally about what makes you know your God more?

Step 2: Pray

My God, how great is your mercy towards me because you didn't only let me know your Trinity, or how to reach you as a real spiritual foundation, but also you guarantee Continuing my relationship with you through knowing the ways of reaching you and Equally keeping them all.

Day 6: Friday, February 24, 2012

How to evaluate foundations (small things place firm foundations and great buildings)

Did you go through hard times or complicated situations where you did a small part faithfully and God completed the bigger part and solved it all? What did you learn from that

Step 1: Read Zechariah 4:8-10

What did the Lord of hosts promise Zerubbabel who was building his house? Was he offering great works and high matters or small ones?

The place that I put a foundation for inside me, is it for me or for Him? Do you think that He would like to be glorified in it and with it despite of my small works for him like he was with Zerubbabel in the old days?

What would my reaction towards the small matters that I do to build the foundation for His Home inside me after I've known this truth?

Question for Children: Which would be faster, if you regularly draw a line in a big painting every day or if you draw a lot of lines on one day and then forget about it? Do you do that with your heart's relationship with Jesus, little by little every day but continuously and regularly?

Step 2: Pray

My God How unsearchable are Your judgments , your calculations and your laws are way different that the world's calculations And laws. I ask you to plant in me the understanding of your ways to know you, I ask you To teach me to offer the little that I have but faithfully and with all my heart, every day, continuously and regularly and just leave your hand to be glorified in your work.

Day 7: Saturday, February 25, 2012

Importance of examining the foundations (examining its existence and its quality)

When you have a business, you calculate and prepare for it the best you can, before you Even start to ensure success and to continue growing. Have you ever tried to do the same towards any new step in your spiritual life?

Step 1: Read Luke 6:47-49

From the reference, what needs a strong foundation? Is drilling or deep drilling in Something solid like a rock is easy?

What is the result of hard work and deep drilling, verses the result Leniency and rapid Construction? Which result would you want for buildings in your spiritual and humanitarian Life?

Question for Children: what do you think of the scene? Which of the two buildings will Stand up to the floods and winds? The built with difficulty on a rock with deep foundation? Or the built with ease on the ground with no deep drilling? Do you put effort into putting A foundation to your relationship with Jesus and your love for him, and do you hide him deep inside your heart? How?

Step 2: Pray

My God, how great are you to know how much it hurts me to keep starting over then fall Again, and how you want to cure these failure and depression wounds of mine, so please help me understand that every weariness I offer in this great salvation season (your holy Lent), will be great to you because I'm united with you, to help me place a steady and firm continuous for my life with you.

