

The Virtue of Faith

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT

We believe because of the authority of God who reveals. Our response is a gift of his grace. We must remain steadfast in faith to see God.

Keeping the above statement in mind, read and meditate on the following passages:

SCRIPTURE (IN ORDER BY BOOK)

Gn 6:5-7-16	Noah responds to God's command to build an ark in faith
Gn 15:6	Abram put his faith in the Lord and obeyed his command
Gn 22:1-19	God tests Abraham's faith by asking him to offer his son Isaac
Ex 14:21-29	Moses parts the Red Sea and the Israelites pass through it dry-shod
Mk 9:17-27	Everything is possible to one with faith; we must ask God for help to believe
Lk 1:26-38, 45	Mary believed that God would do what the angel told her
Jn 3:36	Belief in Jesus gives eternal life, but failure to obey him leads to condemnation
Jn 6:44	All who come to the Father have been invited
Jn 6:60-69	Many abandon Jesus because they cannot accept a hard teaching
Jn 20:19-29	Belief without visible confirmation is greater than faith based on seeing
Eph 2:1-10	We are saved through faith by grace; it is not from us, but is a gift from God
Eph 6:16	Faith is a shield against Satan
Col 1:21-23	We must be steadfast in our faith
1 Tm 6:11-12	We must strive to sustain and live our faith
2 Tm 4:6-8	We receive our reward after a lifetime of keeping our faith
Heb 11:1-12:2	We have many forebearers and witnesses to faith in God
Jas 1:2-8	Our faith should be steadfast and our prayer must be without doubt in God
Jas 2:14-26	Faith must be living and active, and manifests itself in works of charity
1 Pt 1:3-9	Faith is tested by suffering

CATECHISM (IN ORDER BY PARAGRAPH NUMBER)

26	Faith is our response to God
35	We can know God by reason and revelation; faith does not oppose reason
142-143	We respond to God's invitation to know him by belief and submit in obedience
144-165	Models of the obedience of faith; belief in the Trinity; characteristics of faith
166-175	Faith within a community; the Church; creeds; unity of the faith
185-197	Professions of faith
1266	The theological virtues are infused at Baptism
1812	The theological virtues adapt us for our participation in God's nature
1813-1816	The theological virtue of faith
2087-2089	The duty of faith and sins against faith

KEY TERMS

<i>Deposit of Faith:</i>	The entirety of revelation, contained in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition
<i>Faith:</i>	The theological virtue that responds to God in belief, trust, and obedience
<i>Theological virtues:</i>	The supernatural virtues of faith, hope, and love that equip human nature for participation in God's own life which are infused by God at Baptism
<i>Virtue:</i>	A disposition to do good that is both firm and ongoing

SUGGESTED HYMNS AND SONGS FOR CATECHETICAL SESSION

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
 Day Is Done
 Eye Has Not Seen
 Faith of Our Fathers
 For All the Saints
 God Is Our Fortress and Our Rock
 God of My Life, I Believe
 The Joy of the Lord
 The Lord Is My Light
 We Walk by Faith