

# Abandonment to the Will of God

- Growth in abandonment, obedience, discernment, and detachment
  - Acceptance of ordinary, daily experiences as God’s will
  - Self “annihilation” ... death to self (will)
  - Perseverance in prayer despite no consolation or even the feeling of devotion or love
  - Prayer of faith – surrender of whole self to God – “naked faith” as described by John of the Cross
- Devotion to Our Lady (Marian Consecration)
- Spiritual direction

“It is impossible to attain union with God without a complete conformity to God’s will that is proven by works, by one’s way of life. Instead of preoccupying ourselves with the rule, we need to aim generously at the goal.”

--Fr Gabriel of Mary Magdalene, *Divine Intimacy*

# How it all comes together

“A prayer that does not lead you to practical action for your brother...is a sterile and incomplete prayer. When time is not set aside for dialogue with him in prayer, we risk serving ourselves and not God present in our needy brother and sister.”

--Pope Francis, Angelus address, July 21, 2013

“A new evangelization, a church which evangelizes, must always start with prayer...without prayer, our acts are empty, and our proclamation has no soul; it is not inspired by Spirit.”

--Pope Francis, General Audience, May 22, 2013

“Act as if everything depended upon you, knowing that in reality everything depends on God.”

--St Ignatius de Loyola

# But Do We Want to be Saints?

Mark Hart in his talk entitled, “Contemporary Sainthood” states:

“We were not created to just be alive, or to live, but to THRIVE...and all of the bad feelings—pain, regret, frustration, despair, anxiety, etc are rooted in our not fulfilling our true purpose in life.”

“For God created you not just to be good, or be better, but to be everything He created you to be—a saint... you have been given the Spirit and power of God for becoming a saint in Baptism...and the strength to do what is necessary in Confirmation. It just relies upon you to unleash that power and strength.”

# What Stops Us?

- Pride
- Sin and Disobedience—don't want to change
- Fear—afraid of what we may have to give up

Mark Hart continues:

“We were not made for comfort, we were made for much more; we were made for GREATNESS, so we need to “get comfortable with being uncomfortable.”

# Does it matter if I become a saint?

**In a word, YES.**

First, because you can't give what you don't have.

Second can be found in the wisdom of St John of Avila:

“If the simple folk live in a lukewarm state, the situation is regrettable. They hurt themselves, but a remedy is possible. If, however, it is the teachers who are lukewarm, then the Lord's warning needs to be considered: ‘Woe to him by whom they come!’ Great harm can come from their lukewarmness, because it will easily spread to others and dampen their spiritual fervor.”

A final caution comes from St Josemaria Escriva, founder of Opus Dei:

“Let us remember to keep our eyes fixed on the Lord and not become distracted by things of secondary importance...we have to be careful to not fall into carelessness and lukewarmness in our spiritual life.”

# Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium* (*The Joy of the Gospel*)

We must “...help believers to grow spiritually so that they can respond to God’s love ever more fully in their lives...” and reach out to “...the baptized whose lives do not reflect the demands of Baptism, who lack a meaningful relationship to the Church and no longer experience the consolation born of faith.” (EG, 15)

“I dream of a ‘missionary option,’ that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.” (EG, 27)

“To be evangelizers of souls, we need to develop a spiritual taste for being close to people’s lives and to discover that this is itself a source of greater joy. To be Mission is at once a passion for Jesus and a passion for his people.” (EG, 268)

“It is striking that even some who clearly have solid doctrinal and spiritual convictions fall into a lifestyle which leads to an attachment to financial security, or to a desire for power or for human glory at all cost, rather than giving their lives to others in mission. Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of missionary enthusiasm.” (EG, 80)

# Go and make disciples...

“To believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in everything means realizing that he seeks to penetrate every human situation and all social bonds....Evangelization is meant to cooperate with this liberating work of Spirit.”

--Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* (178)

Whether you recognize it or not, you are an important player in the world. You have a key role in the unfolding of God’s master plan. Simply by being who you are, you are changing history. Your words, your actions, your demeanor are helping to shape other people and their perception of the Lord.

God has placed you here for a reason. He knows what you are capable of doing. So be quiet. Spend time with our Lord and ask:

Am I becoming the instrument that God created me to be?

Am I cooperating with His Spirit so I can help Him change the world?

# Final Takeaways

“The only real sadness, the only real failure, the only *great tragedy* in life, is to not to become a saint.”

--Leon Bloy

“The Lord must reign in our mind, in our will, and in our actions.”

--Fr Fernandez, *In Conversation with God*

“God has given you a gift, a charism. A charism isn’t something you earn. It’s a gift entrusted to you for the sake of the whole community, including your church. The only question is whether you will put it at the service of the community or not.”

--Author Unknown