

"I Come in Peace"

FIRE Night II.2

November 6, 2022

[Fr. Jared's Key Talking Points]

WHAT IS PEACE?

○ Peace is A FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The *fruits* of the Spirit are perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the first fruits of eternal glory. The tradition of the Church lists twelve of them: "charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, chastity" (*Gal 5:22-23*). (CCC 1832)

- ◆ Peace is a fruit, not a virtue. Peace is not a virtue we practice but a perfection formed in us by means of practicing other virtues.
- ◆ This is different, also, than doing peaceful actions. Rather, the fruit of peace forms from within.
- ◆ Image of sun perfectly reflecting off of a calm sea, while not reflecting off of a tumultuous sea. The peaceful state of the sea is what radiates the sun. Similarly, it is a peaceful interior state that radiates the love and glory of God.

HOW IS PEACE ATTAINED?

○ Peace is THE OUTCOME OF SPIRITUAL COMBAT.

St Francis de Sales : "The devil does his utmost to banish peace from one's heart, because he knows that God abides in peace and it is in peace that He accomplishes great things."

- ◆ The first goal of combat is not to always obtain a victory but to learn to maintain peace of heart under all circumstances, even in the case of defeat.

John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give it to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid."

John 16:33: " I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

WHAT PROMOTES PEACE?

○ Peace is PROMOTED by:

- ◆ Goodwill, or purity of heart is necessary condition for peace;
- ◆ Habitual determination to say “yes” to God, small or big, as well as an habitual detachment from all that is contrary to God

WHAT PREVENTS PEACE?

○ Peace is PREVENTED by:

- ◆ Lack of confidence in God
St. Francis de Sales: “The measure of divine providence acting on us is the degree of confidence that we have in it.”
- ◆ Fear, Precautions, Reservations, Fear of lacking something, Anxiety, Fear of spontaneity, Fear of suffering.
St. Therese of Lisieux: “God does not permit unnecessary suffering” Lisieux

WHAT PROTECTS PEACE?

○ Peace is PROTECTED by:

- ◆ Growth in confidence in God; a necessary contemplative gaze on Jesus.
Fr. Jacques Philippe: “The heart does not awaken to confidence until it awakens to love.”
- ◆ Abandonment/detachment to God.
Fr. Jacques: “One abandons oneself entirely or not at all.”
- ◆ Renunciation
St. Therese: “oh, if one only knew what one gains in renounce in all things!”
- ◆ If we allow God to make us happy in His way, we will always be infinitely more happy than if we restricted Him to making us happy in our own way.
- ◆ God asks for everything but doesn’t necessarily take everything
- ◆ Abandonment is a grace to be asked of. It is not natural.
- ◆ It is not our exterior circumstances that must change but our hearts. God may cause me to lack in many material ways, but He will never leave me wanting of Himself or of His assistance

HOW IS PEACE TESTED?

○ Peace is TESTED by:

- ◆ Suffering, the ultimate test
- ◆ Becoming affected by the difficulties of those we love - motivated by fear and not love/compassion
 - St. John of the Cross: "On the eve of our life, we will be judged by how much we loved."
- ◆ The faults and shortcomings of others
- ◆ Patience towards others

WHAT TO DO WHEN WE LOSE PEACE?

○ Peace is RESTORED by:

- ◆ Recapturing our peace as soon as possible, so as to avoid sadness and discouragement
- ◆ Remind ourselves that:
 - God acts in the peace of our soul.
 - God is more pleased when we re-abandon ourselves to Him than by sulking in guilt and misery.
 - The pain of peacelessness is actually wounded pride, not God's hating us.
 - God can draw good, even from our faults.
 - St. John of the Cross: "Love is able to profit from everything, the good as well as the bad that It finds in me, and to transform it into Itself."
 - Fr. Jacques: "The sign of spiritual progress is not so much never falling as it is being able to lift oneself up quickly after one falls."
- ◆ True sanctity is to become more increasingly aware of how much we need His mercy.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF PEACE?

○ Peace cultivates peace.

- ◆ Interior peace leads to Exterior peace
 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
 - Having mercy on ourselves leads to a mercy and tenderness toward others.

St. Seraphim of Sarov : "Acquire interior peace and a multitude will find its salvation through you."

○ Peace is NECESSARY to discernment.

◆ Peace is essential to discernment of spirits

- Avoid being hurried
- Consider our motivations
- Pray for the light of the Holy Spirit
- Advice/council
- When uncertain:

St. Faustina: "In incertitude one must tell oneself: whatever I do, it will be good, provided that I have the intention to do good. That which we consider good, God accepts and considers as good."

- Must act
- Perfectionism has nothing to do with sanctity

○ Peace is MAINTAINED through ongoing renunciation.

◆ Start with maintaining the peace of every day situations, then peace will be strengthened in the difficulties of life.