

MAN AND WOMEN OF THE SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

As Christians, our basic, fundamental and primary calling is to holiness. In other words, God has called each one of us in Jesus Christ, that we should be holy and blameless before him. (Eph 1;4). To fulfil our calling, we need the spirit of God who himself is the spirit of holiness. This course deals with men and women, saints who through the history of the church have lived holy live through the holy spirit. It also addresses the Christian's growth in holiness.

The important question is > how did the name believers become saints, models of holiness? They were more open to the holy spirit. He did not just reside in them, he presided over their lives. how?

They did not, "slack in zeal" they were fervent in spirit and served the lord uncompromisingly (Rom. 13;9-11). In other words, they lived and were guided by the spirit (Gal. 5;16-25)

Under the rulership of the holy spirit, the divine being turns out the individual as another Christ, who is the holy one of Israel the plenitude and source of holiness. In Gal. 5;22, we see in them the fruits of the spirit.

Without holy spirit, one on can become a saint. The saints of God were not committed to ordinary morality, barest

Christianity, minimum devotion to Christ. Their morality was dynamic.

Their lives were charming such that many people want to follow their way of life. I saw God in a man. Someone once said of a saint.

All of us are candidates for sainthood; called to holiness, because holiness is the destiny of the Christian. We have been called to become gods by the holy spirit, sharing in the divine nature of our God (2 Pet. 2;4) this journey begins with conversion.

Very often, our journey of conversion starts with a crisis. Something happens that drives us to seeking God's face. It does not necessarily have to be a problem, but a particular situation stimulates a hunger for God and for his word in our hearts.

God can speak to us through the regular medium of preaching or scripture, but oftentimes, especially when we have not paid attention to that, he could pinch us with a crisis so as to get our attention. The crisis is important because it wakes us up and helps us to understand that life is not just based on money. Suffering does a lot for us in life. especially as regards our relationship with God, both at the beginning and as we grow up.

This crisis leads us to an awakening. When Saul met Jesus on the way to Damascus, it was awakening each of us had a situation crisis in life that woke us up, and we started taking

God seriously. So many of us received God's life as children at baptism, but because we don't live that life, we need an experience of personal conversion. God calls everyday to friendship with him, but when we refuse to listen and listening here means, paying attention with our soul, and responding to God's invitation as often happens, God uses crisis situation to awaken us and draw us to himself.

At awakening, we realize our helplessness, our sins and failings. And we run to God for help. we discover that life is empty without God and we open our hearts to the outpouring of his grace and love. Even the acts of devotion that we used to approach casually became more meaningful and we take them seriously.

Then the awakening leads to purification. At awakening we realize our need to reconcile with God. This leads to repentance, confession and a determination to forsake sin, this is purification. That is when you begin to reconcile and forgive people who wrong you, and at the same time beg for forgiveness from the people you wrong. Purification enables you to be awakened to the things of God, and you become attracted to prayer, devotion, and seeking the presence of God.

When you are purified, you are changed person. You hear the voice of God more clearly and loudly. Your spirit is being purified. Purification is both for the body and the soul. The soul controls our intellect and memory. Our reasoning is purified and we begin to reason and talk like God. Your intellect begins to change; your mentalities about certain things change of

mind. You begin to reason no longer like anybody else, but like a child of God.

This is the work of the holy spirit in you. Your will is change at purification. You begin to say no to yourself. Purification is not easy. All our lives we are being purified. God purifies the body, the soul and the spirit. Now the holy spirit will be leading us and longer our spirit. We experience personality change, and our entire personality must become Christ (Rom. 12;2). We are to become Jesus Christ. The image of God. He is a perfect man. He is the one that we are imitating.

The holy spirit reproduces Jesus in us. When you allow the holy spirit to reproduce Jesus in you, you will be very happy and fulfilled. Then the father can say about us; behold my son in whom I am well pleased, this is because he sees and loves in you what he sees and loves in his Son Jesus Christ. Awakening also leads to reading and understanding the word of God. By doing this you purify yourself because the word of God purifies.

As purification is taking place, we enter another level called Illumination. This is the process of being enlightened. The holy spirit enlightens and gives true light. When we are enlightened, we begin to understand God. Illumination exposes the futility of life and we see the beauty of heaven. We are enlightened we begin to understand why suffering. For example, can be valuable and produce positive results. Illumination makes us see God in every occasion, in things, in event. And a time comes

when we will begin to see things in God. This is because we are illumined as the holy spirit enlighten us.