

## REFLECTION

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“When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say. For it will not be you who speak but the Spirit of the Father speaking through you.” (Mt 10,19-20)

What reassuring words from Christ! After warning us, his followers, that we are sent like sheep in the midst of wolves, he consoles us with these words. We should not be afraid to do what Christ has sent us to do. Everything will be taken care of.

In another part of the gospel, the same reassurance is also given. “In the world, you have tribulation, but take courage. I have overcome the world,” he told his disciples. (Jn 16,33)

But this divine reassurance does not exempt us from cultivating a theological mind, conforming our thoughts, words and deeds to those of God who now actively intervenes in our life through his Spirit.

We have to learn to think, judge and reason in terms of faith. We have to learn to develop a supernatural outlook in life, always referring things to God. We have to be convinced that for us to be objective, to be discerning of the endless subtleties and mysteries in life, we need always to refer things to God.

Otherwise, we would just be at the mercy of what our senses can only provide, of what our intelligence can only understand, of what the worldly trends and conditionings can only show us.

Not that these are unimportant. They will always be indispensable and we need to gather as

much as possible all the pertinent data through these human powers and factors. But we would still miss the real thing if all these data are not referred to God. That is, if we do not listen to what the Spirit tells and shows us, the Spirit who is always intervening in our life.

We have to allow the Spirit to speak and we listen and discern as attentively as possible. It is in this way that we can participate as intimately and as actively as possible in God's wisdom, power, knowledge and understanding, his love and mercy. It is in this way that we get to do God's will that will always be for the good of all. In short, we get to do our part in his providence.

We have to adjust the way we think and see things in general to accommodate this very crucial truth about ourselves and things in general. We are often so hampered and then entangled by merely earthly and material considerations that we fail to see things in their real and ultimate perspectives, with the all the inputs of sense data, pure reason and faith considered.

We need to pray to the Holy Spirit, to develop an abiding and intimate relationship with him. In this, let's hope that we can pass from the infantile stage to the more adult and mature one that would enable us to resolve the many questions and doubts we can have about the Holy Spirit.

Let's remember what Christ told his disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit: "I tell you the truth. It is expedient for you that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Comforter (the Spirit of God) will not come unto you. But if I depart, I will send him unto you." (Jn 16,7)

And the Spirit finally came on Pentecost and continues to stay with us till the end of time, guiding us toward our proper end.

It's usually our pride that makes us blind and deaf to the Holy Spirit, and to depend solely or mainly on ourselves. We have to melt that pride away, sometimes using strong solvents for that purpose.

But it's important that our dealings with the Holy Spirit be constant. We have to learn to be sensitive and docile to his promptings to the extent that our thoughts, words and deeds would reflect the mind and ways of the Holy Spirit.

Toward the Holy Spirit, the proper attitude to have is to want to be filled with him. Let's be zealous in reaching that goal, without being distracted by our other concerns no matter how urgent they may be.

Let's promptly second the Holy Spirit's inspirations, because delays will only distance us from him. His ways may make us suffer and to keep quiet on certain issues, like what happened to Christ himself, but his ways are always effective in leading us to our proper end.

Let's hope and pray that we develop a culture that is attentive to the workings of the Holy Spirit in our life.