

Living the Spirit  
O God, We Adore You!

In our previous writings we have come to know about “Who God Is.” We have intensified our knowledge about the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. To this knowledge we may have diverse reactions. Some may react by saying that it is, after all, the same belief they have always had. Others will realize that they have learned anew or recalled again valuable aspects of their firmly held faith in God.

I have said before that there is a distinction between knowing about God and knowing Him. To live the Spirit we must have a knowledge that leads to intimate union with God in order to grow and mature in our spiritual life.

I can think of many examples of just how we can know about others without really knowing them. I know a good deal about many people whom I have served as a priest over the years. Yet, there are but a few that I would say I really know. I am sure you have a similar experience.

As an aside in these critical days of disturbed political life, I cannot help thinking of how I have known about many of our nation’s leaders. I realize, all too often, that I really did not or do not know them. I think that it is likely that, despite the constant tabulations of polls, they may not know us at all. I mention all this to show that so much of what we think we know about others is imperfect. Yet, in critical matters, we must not allow that to be our care where God is concerned.

It would be sad to know much about God but never to come to know Him as He desires to be known. We must become aware how God is constantly present to us. That presence is made real for us in many different ways. There is, for example, the presence of grace – in which He shares with us something of His own life or nature. How we should want to know God as the loving Father, the provider and giver of life. How we should want to know Jesus – as our Friend and Savior in so many ways. How we should want to know the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete whose advocacy and gifts we so often need.

We can become united with God in our prayer life. Prayer requires us to raise our minds and hearts to God. It energizes our faith which comes alive. And yes, prayer can be a prayer of action as well as of words. Sometimes we must remind ourselves that prayer must be a two-way meeting of mind and heart – our speaking to God and our listening to His inspirations.

The Year of Faith has called us to a closer union with our God. We have during this time made efforts to do what we say in the prayer of the Church in the Gloria of the Mass.

**“We praise You, we bless You,  
We adore You, we glorify You,  
We give You thanks for your great glory!”**

In this prayer we speak to God with the power of our faith, the means by which we are united with Him and make Him present in our lives.

I have often recalled the words of Father Sertillanges: “Adoration puts God in His place, and us, in ours.” Do we ask ourselves: What is our place? This noted theologian answers for us that our place is before God, in His creation. He does not hesitate to remind us that adoration of God means not setting oneself up at all, but rather affirms the divinity of God in its fullness.

As the Year of Faith comes to its final weeks, we have a need to reflect on how we are personally being called to a more lively faith in God. Our faith must be a living faith. God calls us to life, a life where we are. He gives us the gift of time – which becomes our time. It is now our age. Our age is a restless one. It is so because its very heart is being robbed of the presence of its God. That is why the Church asks us to become apostles and to evangelize our world. It is for us to give our world what we have – the joy of the good news. In a simple word, faith.

If we turn to the Scriptures we find many examples of faith actively present in believers. Abraham believed and was rewarded by becoming the father of those with faith. We see the faith, often with very human attributes, in such as Moses, Joseph the patriarch, David, and other Old Testament saints. Then we come to the incomparable faith of Mary and Joseph who make the Incarnation a reality. We see as well the faith of the Apostles, a faith so well expressed by its necessity: “*Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*”

Perhaps we pass over too readily the so called “little people” of the Gospels. Think of the man born blind, the widow who touched the hem of Christ’s garment; the paralytic and his friends, the lepers. We have also the example of the faith of St. Paul, a faith shared with ordinary persons who became the heroes of the faith.

To find further examples of faith, we may dwell on the long history of the Church. There we will find the great martyrs and the many saints who found in the faith the pearl of great price. I think we should likewise think of those who have gone before us whose holiness is known only to God. I personally recall the faith of my grandmother who became a convert and lived the faith so well all her days. I think of other family members and I find their faith copied in others who formed my spiritual life as a believer.

I write this to remind you that your journey of faith is not a unique one. It may be personal but it is truly a goal that, once begun at Baptism, can grow. We can live the Spirit, and find in our journey from God to God much joy along the way. How important it is for us to know God. Many have written of this. It remains for once again to turn to Father Sertillanges as one who has words of interest.

“The richness of our lives which seems to depend on so many things really depends on our relation with the Source of all things, isolated from the pretended things that are reduced to the state of phantoms. The solid substance of things is in God; of themselves our realities vanish. To find stable reality one must stem the current of time, become moored to the eternal and thence demand of time and the things of time the services which eternity has a right to expect of them.... Union with God renders us as rich as God. The dominion of God saves the world ... and what glory there is in it! It is a small matter that a little creature should serve God [adore Him]; what is astounding is that God should deign to be thus served. A Christian knows the truth of this and measures its glory with magnificence.” That is why we pray, “O God, we adore You!”

*God love you always!*  
*Monsignor David Morrison*

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