Spirit of Obedience

Whoever wants to aspire for sanctity cannot dispense with the Evangelical Counsels because they help us free ourselves from all inner slavery, from all disordered attachments to all created things.

It is about renouncing the created thing, be it permanently or temporarily. It is about conquering our inner independence when facing the created thing.

The spirit of the Counsels includes two elements: detachment and attachment. They help us to free ourselves from all which is disordered in us so that we can attach ourselves and bind ourselves to God with love.

Spirit of obedience. Fundamental is a magnanimous spirit of obedience towards God; not only to his Will and his commandments, but also to his wishes and inner suggestions. That same attitude should also reign in respect to his reflections and representatives on earth. It has to do with seeing God behind all legitimate human authority.

It means that I do not bow before the authority of a man, but before the authority of God who manifests himself in him. Therefore, obedience for love of God.

In conclusion, the spirit of obedience is knowing and feeling that God speaks to me, guides me and sanctifies me through others. And demands that I be attentive and permanently open to his voice which reaches me in thousands of forms and different appearances. There is no doubt that obedience is a very broad and varied field for living magnanimity.

Obedience is the great sign of love. Love tests its authenticity in obedience. Love is fundamentally the fusion of the I with a you.

But the proof that that fusion is not something sentimental is that it expresses itself in my desire to fuse myself with the Will of God. It is the children’s great proof of love.

It is the fundamental attitude of Christ: “My food is to do the Will of the Father” (JN 4, 34). It is also the fundamental attitude of the Virgin Mary: “I am the Lord’s servant, may it happen to me as you have said” (LK 1, 38).

In reality, God makes his wishes known to me through many other persons around me. A most special word for me from God is that of my spouse. Already on the wedding day, God said to me: through your husband or wife, I want to send you my most meaningful and intimate messages of love. How do I maintain the attitude of listening before that word of God which comes to me through him or her?

He or she is word of God for me, in the first place, through his/her love, but also through his/her wishes, needs, sorrows. All is word of God: His/her gestures of love call me to be thankful, his/her wishes and needs to tend to him/her, his/her sorrows to heal them and to share them.

The same goes in regard to the children and other persons close to you. Each and every person in our midst is an angel of God who brings us his message.

But, do I listen to those words of God which come to me through others? When I am spoken to, is it my inner attitude to respond as in Mass: I praise you, Lord because you have just spoken to me through my wife, my husband, my child, my brother/sister? Do I listen with an attitude of joy every time someone else opens their mouth? God wants to tell me something! And when I feel there is something of God in what someone else says to me, do I obey, do I welcome him/her, do I open my heart to him/her so that word can find a dwelling in me?

Questions for reflection

1. Do I believe God leads me through the wills of other persons?
2. Do I see my spouse as a representative of God?

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