

Homily Guide
Sunday January 30, 2010
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Faith is both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief, and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the Sacraments, live by right conduct that fulfills the twofold commandment of charity (as specified in the Ten Commandments), and respond to in our prayer of faith. Faith is both a theological virtue given by God as grace, and an obligation which flows from the first commandment of God.

Faith is Both Subjective and Objective...meaning it is both something given to us by God (Objective) and something we respond to as individuals (Subjective)

Faith is a Theological Virtue - Theological Virtues are gifts of grace given by God. The object, or aim, of the virtue is God Himself.

Pascal's Wager

Table of Payoffs	You Believe in God	You Don't Believe in God
God doesn't exist	You've lost Nothing and lived a virtuous and generous life	You've gained nothing
God exists	Heaven for Eternity	Hell for Eternity

Since the chance of God existing is unknown, but the payoff/punishment scheme is infinitely in favor of believing in God, you should believe just in case he exists. It's the safe bet.

Syllogism

- p1. Believers and non believers alike, agree that payoff is good, punishment is bad.
- p2. if God is real you receive infinite punishment for disbelief or infinite payoff for belief
 - a. if you believe you go to heaven for eternity.
 - b. if you do not believe you go to hell for eternity.
- p3. if God is not real you don't really lose or gain anything either way.
 - a. if you believe falsely that God does exist you haven't really lost anything.
 - b. if you don't believe and it turns out God doesn't exist then you don't really gain anything.
- c1. Therefore even if there is strong evidence against God it is still better to believe.
 - a. the payoff for believing if there is a God, is infinitely better than the benefit for not believing if there's no God.

Faith is something that we naturally have when we know that God both and exists and loves us. Everyone would believe in God if they were sure he existed and everyone would be a Christian if they knew that Christ was the Son of God and the second person of the Trinity. In its most basic form, a person has faith when he or she finally understands that God and Jesus are who the Bible says they are.

How do we get faith? Why is one person a believer and another is not? It is difficult to understand how one person has faith and another person does not. Faith is both a gift from God and a response by the individual to that gift.

In order for a person to find faith they must first find God. To find God one must have an experience of God that they recognize. People may have many encounters with God and not know it was Him. A good suggestion to find God is to find him in the silence of your heart. Take 45 minutes of day of silence and after a few days or weeks you will eventually encounter him. We are so busy in our day we often loose track of God. It is hard to hear a whisper when everything around us is so loud.

