

Faith Works

Beginning Faith

We use the term “faith” in almost every religious conversation and context. But what does it mean? How do you know if you have it? Faith is first of all a response. It is the response to an encounter with God. In a completely free way, God reveals Himself. Intellectual faith responds with “I believe you”. Living faith responds with “I want to behave in the way you are calling me to”. Simple faith responds with “I belong to you”. Ultimately, faith is “saying yes” to God.

Discussion Questions

1. Who is the most “faithful” person you know? Why and what are the qualities they have that would lead you to say that?
 2. Would you say that you have ever had an “encounter” with God? Why or why not? Share and discuss.
 3. Faith is fundamentally “yes to God”. Do you find it difficult or easy to live this “yes”? What are some of the obstacles that make saying yes more difficult? What are some things that make saying yes easier? Discuss.
 4. Those who have never given their own personal “yes” to Jesus Christ (but who were baptized) might experience a “tied” Sacrament of Baptism. While they are truly baptized, the graces are “baffled” (a St. Thomas Aquinas term). What are your thoughts on that? Does it explain your experience? Is it troubling? Discuss.
 5. God has acted in history. This means that our faith must be lived out in our own personal history. Are there times and places in your life where living your faith is more difficult? Discuss.
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God in Real Life

1. This week, seek the encounter with the true and living God. Seek, Ask, and Knock. This encounter can happen through any number of means. Look for it. Respond with yes.
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To the Heart

“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” ~Ephesians 2:8