



Scripture nugget –Our soul, our most precious possession

What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? (Mark 8:36).

How much is a soul worth? Every human being has a soul given by God at the moment of its conception in the womb. Thus, God dictates that human life starts at conception, not at birth. Abortion is killing in the eyes of God. Jesus teaches us clearly that our soul is worth much more than all the treasures in this world. The Church has the highest mission of saving souls, not the environment, not the climate, etc. It shares the mission of Christ. Detractors would like the Church to pursue other issues but the Church should not be distracted to win favour of the world. God has given us a whole life-time in which to prepare our souls ready for spending an eternal life of love and happiness with Him in heaven. Each soul has the personal responsibility to work towards the attainment of heaven. The truth of the reality of heaven, purgatory and hell stands whether or not people believe in it. To prepare ourselves ready for heaven, we need to work at our personal holiness at every present moment as our most important mission as where we go after this life depends on it. Holiness is through the obedience of God's commandments, the pass-key to heaven. God Who is love, commands us to love Him unconditionally above all else. The more we love God, the more we love His Commandments, the more we detest sins. The more we love God, the more we attain our highest potential God created us to be. Jesus says to us: *So be perfect, just as your heavenly Father is perfect (Matthew 5:48)*. God's power through His graces is available to us to grow in holiness.

Keeping our souls holy in a state of grace. Baptism purifies us of all sins and confers sanctifying grace and actual grace on our souls. Sanctifying grace stays within our souls and makes it holy. Actual grace is divine help from God to strengthen us in obedience and to walk on the true path. Every time we sin, we lose some sanctifying grace. Thus, when a person commits mortal sins, his soul could become dead spiritually through the total loss of sanctifying grace. However, a good Confession with sincere repentance and firm resolution of amendment restores a soul to its full sanctifying grace! This is one of the most powerful works of God though it is unseen. With vigilance, we need to protect our souls from the stain of sin. We have to get rid of all unforgiveness, hatred, and anything that does not come from God in our heart, mind or soul. All these obstacles obstruct grace. We have to guard our heart and mind with humility and holy love, the summation of God's Commandments. Our real enemies are Satan and the evil spirits that try to tempt us. With the help of God's grace, we are engaged in spiritual warfare till the last day of our life.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, help me keep my soul in the state of grace. Humility, love, a sincere prayer life and an ardent desire to walk in Your footsteps and to fulfill God's will through the obedience of His Commandments serve as a good armor against Satan and his temptations. The Sacraments which are Your actions to convey grace to us in torrents through the hands of the priest are indispensable in our quest for holiness. Help me build up a closer and more loving personal relationship with You which is the best antidote to avoid sin. Through my obedience to God's commandments and meditation on Your Life and Passion, bring me closer to Your Sacred Heart. Like the deer yearning for a stream of running water, You are the treasure my soul unceasingly seeks. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.