

Study Lesson Number: 25

GRACE - (continued)

Briefly, GRACE IS LIFE - - - - divine life in our soul. By it, Christ lives in us and we live in Him. As St. Paul says, "It is now no longer I that live, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2/20). Or as Christ Himself says, "Abide in Me, and I in you." (John 15/4)

(My comment: Remember the example of the iron rod in the fire. The rod takes on all the qualities of the fire, and to some extent becomes the fire itself.

What are the chief effects of sanctifying Grace?

The chief effects of sanctifying grace are:

- First, it makes us holy and pleasing to God;
- Second, it makes us adopted children of God;
- Third, it makes us temples of the Holy Ghost;
- Fourth, it gives us the right to heaven.

What is actual grace?

Actual grace is a supernatural help of God which enlightens our minds and strengthens our wills to do good and to avoid evil.

Actual graces are special HELPS God gives us in times of need and possible danger.

God gives us many actual graces each day. They last as long as we need them and then they go. They are really ACTIONS of God to help us through some spiritual danger.

But sanctifying grace is PERMANENT and, unless we lose it by sin, it will last until it becomes the life of glory in heaven.

Can we resist the grace of God?

We can resist the grace of God, for our will is free, and God does not force us to accept His grace.

God will never force Himself upon us. If we do not want God, He will remove Himself from us - AND THIS IS THE VERY WORST PUNISHMENT THAT CAN COME TO US!!!

God could force us, but because of our free will He does not.

Why is sanctifying grace necessary for salvation?

Sanctifying grace is necessary for salvation because it is the supernatural life, which alone enables us to attain the supernatural happiness of heaven.

Is actual grace necessary for all who have attained the use of reason?

Actual grace is necessary for all who have attained the use of reason, because without it we cannot long resist the power of temptation or perform other actions which merit a reward in heaven.

What are the principal ways of obtaining grace?

The principal ways of obtaining grace are prayer and the sacraments, ESPECIALLY THE HOLY EUCHARIST.

How can we make our most ordinary actions merit a heavenly reward?

We can make our most ordinary actions merit a heavenly reward by doing them for the love of God and by keeping ourselves in the state of grace.