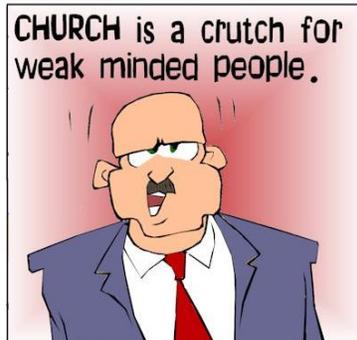




Deacon Greg's Corner

Is Faith in God a Crutch?



A FOOL says in their heart "THERE IS NO GOD" Ps 53

The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." They act corruptly and practice injustice; there is none that does good. (Psalm 53:2)

Quite often cynics, like Mr. Crotchety above, claim that faith in God is an emotional crutch for the weak, needy, or simple-minded. Mockers like him often use Karl Marx's famous statement: "*Religion is the opium of the masses.*" This line of thought views faith as just a 'fix' for people, much like a drug, something to make them temporarily feel good.

We Catholic Christians know faith in God helps us through life with incomparable comfort, support, and direction. We know true faith is not a *temporary fix*; it leads to our eternity in heaven. Jesus said; "*For you say, 'I am rich and affluent and have no need of anything,' and yet do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.*" Jesus also says; "*My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.*" And St. Paul adds; "*Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*"

So, is faith in God a crutch? It is up to every individual to choose to have faith in God or to reject it. And is claiming faith in God real or just an excuse used for other purposes? If one is using faith to run away from something, justify something aside the God's Truth, or to take a shortcut to peaceful living, then yes, for him or her faith is a crutch. If one's faith is from the heartfelt desire to have a relationship with God, then no; genuine faith in God for this person is spiritual fulfillment.

Genuine faith in God means believing He is all-powerful, dependable, sovereign, fully able and true and then living every day entrusting your life to Him. If you have been using faith as a "crutch" now is the time to throw them away and walk upright on your own with God at your side.

God Bless!

Deacon Greg

