

10. Life in the Spirit: Indwelling, Gifts, Fruits

Life in the Spirit is the mystical life. It involves an intimate sharing in the divine life. The redemptive, and sanctifying action of God comes to fruition in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the human soul. "Paradise for God," St. Alphonsus says, "is to dwell in the human heart." This intimacy with God manifests itself in a person's being open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, which guide a person along the path of wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord. These holy dispositions sanctify the person and enable him or her to perform sanctified actions of fruits that build up the kingdom of God both within us and in our midst.

I. Introduction - The Path All Things Take: Exitus: All Things Flow Out From God; Reditus: All Things Return to God; We are on the Return Journey: We Return to God by Living the Good Life, the Blessed Life, Life in the Spirit. God's Threefold Economic Plan: God Creates, God Redeems, God Sanctifies Theosis, God's Divinizing Plan: God Created Us and Keeps Us in Existence God Has Redeemed, Is Redeeming, and Will Redeem Us, God Sanctifies Us

II. Life in the Spirit: Life in the Spirit is characterized by friendship with God - the marks of friendship: Benevolence, Reciprocity, Mutual Indwelling

Two types of Grace: Uncreated Grace (The Holy Spirit); Created Grace: Sanctifying (Divinizing) Grace

Gifts: Divine Dispositions that Perfect our Powers and Enable Us to Respond More Readily to the Promptings of the Spirit

The Fruits: Actions Perfected Under The Pentecost by Girolamo Muziano, 16th c. Grace—Fruition of Life in the Spirit

Gifts of the Spirit (Thomas Aquinas, Summa theologiae, I-II, q. 68, aa. 1-8). 1. They Are Supernatural, Permanent Dispositions (Habitus); They Are Distinct from the Infused Virtues; They Enable Us to Respond Easily and Joyfully to the Promptings of the Spirit. They Refer Partly to the Intellect (Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Knowledge). They Refer Partly to the Will (Fortitude, Piety, Fear of the Lord). Their Motivating Principles Are Not the Faculties of the Soul (As with the Infused Virtues), but the Holy Spirit Himself.

III. The Fruits of the Holy Spirit: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit (Aquinas, Summa theologiae, I-II, q. 70) Image of a Fruit; Transfer from the Material to the Spiritual

Materially: A Tree Produces Fruit, A Man Gathers Fruit, Spiritually: The Fruit Man Gathers: His Last End, The Fruit Man Produces: The Fruits of the Holy Spirit Operations (Acts) of Man that Proceed By Virtue of the Holy Spirit

More Is Required of a Beatitude than a Fruit: Fruit: Something Ultimate and Delightful; Beatitude: Something Perfect and Excellent

Twelve Fruits in Number: Love (charity), Joy, Peace, Patience, Long Suffering Goodness, Benignity, Meekness, Faithfulness, Modesty, Self-Control, Chastity

IV. Conclusion: Living the Mystical Life: The Mystical Life Is Not About Extraordinary Phenomena such as Ecstasies, Visions, Bilocation, Levitation, Stigmata, etc.

- It Is about Life in the Spirit
- It Is about the Divine Indwelling
- It Is about Following the Promptings of the Spirit
- It Is about Manifesting the Spirit's Gifts
- It is about Producing the Spirit's Fruits
- It Is about Living the Life of the Beatitudes

Reflection Questions

1. What is life in the Spirit? What does it have to do with the process of theosis or divinization?
2. What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit? What do they enable us to do?
3. What are the fruits of the Spirit? How would you distinguish them from the works of the flesh?