

ARE YOU “BELIEVERS”?

December 1956 editorial

‘Believers’, this word often occurs in Scripture. It is very little used today; our generation does not seem to value it much. Yet, it is full of meaning. Believers are people of faith. Their thoughts, loves, actions and reactions are inspired by faith. Their lives are founded on faith.

But in fact, what is faith? Here is one of the best definitions of it: “a participation in the knowledge that God has of himself” and, we must add, ‘in his knowledge of everything’. It is precisely of this last aspect that I want to speak to you for a moment before inviting you to question yourselves on your faith.

Do you have God’s outlook on everything? What he values, what he does not like; do you share these? I will not, in fact, dwell further on this first consideration, although there is much to be said about it. My aim, today, is to lead you to ask yourself this question: “Does my inner sight lead me to see God present, active and sanctifying everywhere? Does it see the divine dimension of people around me and of events?” Let me explain by means of examples:

- When you are in a coach or in a train, do you look with the eyes of Christ at all these people you see around you with their worries and burdens?
- Does Christ’s great loving concern swell up in your heart for them?
- This sick person, this poor man, this abandoned woman who ask for your help, do you discern in their call the unmistakable sound of the voice of Christ?
- You, parents, looking down at your little child, do you discern the Holy Trinity present in its soul? It is said that Origen’s father would quietly approach his sleeping child and kiss his chest, the tabernacle of his God.
- When happenings in your lives upset your plans, do you discern the hand of God? In this connection, call to mind the words of Pascal: “If God himself were to give us masters, how willingly would we not obey them! Necessity and happenings in our lives are such undoubted masters”.
- And when newspapers report cruel, disconcerting and worrying world events, does your faith tell you that Christ conquers all, that he controls history with a master’s authority and that his irreproachable and unfailing love cannot be frustrated by human beings?
- Do you want to acquire the outlook and reactions of faith that he commands?

Allow me to suggest a way: Decide that, today from morning till night, you will make a very special effort to see all beings and happenings with the eyes of faith. You will begin the day with that prayer inspired by Ezekiel (11: 19) “*Lord, put a new spirit in my heart*”. I assure you that your day will be like no other.

May the coming year be peppered for you with “days of faith”. The benefits will be great. And when such “days of faith” become no different from any other days, then rejoice for you will have become a believer, a ‘just’ man of whom the Bible says: “The just man LIVES by faith”.

Henri Caffarel

P.S. Christ said: “Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am in the midst of them”. Do you believe it? In your team meetings, are you aware of it?