THE MOST BEATIFUL GIFT

6

WORD OF LIFE

From a commentary by Chiara Lubich – adapted by the Gen 3 Center.

"Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may understand what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." ***(Rm 12:2)***

In depth...

This sentence comes from the second part of St. Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul is explaining that ***the behavior of a Christian shows that he or she has a totally new life, together with real love, true joy and freedom*** *– all the things Jesus has given us!* ***Christian life is a new way to have the light and the strength of the Holy Spirit to deal with all our various tasks and the problems that we can encounter every day.***

To accomplish the will of God, we have to first of all understand what it is for us, and that's not easy.

We cannot understand well the will of God without a very special light, that helps us discern what God wants from us in various situations. It helps us to avoid illusions and errors that we could easily fall into.

What we need is **the gift of the Holy Spirit** which is called **"understanding"** and is **indispensable for forming in us a true Christian conscience.**

UNDERSTANDING

With this gift of the Holy Spirit we can recognize the will of God in the various moments of our day. **It helps us to make the right choices.**

But how can we acquire and develop this important gift?

It's necessary to know well the teaching of the Church. But this is not enough. **It's essential that we are generous and committing to living the words of Jesus.** We have to set aside all our fears, uncertainties and our limited plans.

It's a question of **being ready and willing to do the will of God.**

This is the way to have the light of the Holy Spirit that forms within us a new mentality, as we are asked to do in this Word of Life.

So how can we live the Word this month? By trying to merit this light that we need to accomplish God's will.

Let's aim at living the Gospel, because it is from life and from love that this true light comes into our heart. Jesus reveals himself to the one who loves him, and we love him by putting his commandments into practice. *(Read John 14:21)*

n this way we will manage to do the will of God - and that's ***the most beautiful gift*** *we can possibly give him!*

OUR EXPERIENCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

That's what happened to… **Ilenia** from Italy

I really wanted to become like Mary, the mother of Jesus and so I decided to be more attentive to all the people I meet during the day. That's how I started to notice one of my classmates who had some behavioral problems. I tried to get to know her and be with her and show her I wanted to be her friend. After a while she confided in me that at home her life was really terrible and her parents often beat her. What could I do? **I wanted to find a way to keep on loving her, and since I couldn't help her by myself, I asked one of my teachers that I trust to help.** We went together to visit this girl at home and we realized what a bad situation it really was. My friend also agreed that it would be better for her to leave home for a little while and go to a home for girls in need. **She had to miss some school to do this, but I promised her I would not let her down and I got permission from the principal to go and visit her with another friend.** Thanks to this love that I found in my heart when I started to live the Gospel, this girl has rediscovered the joy of living.

In this month…

Let's aim our compass at: Discovering the fantastic adventure that God has planned for each one of us by putting our whole heart into every action – studying, playing, relationships with parents, teachers and friends – giving our 100%!

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