

## Always Try to Make The Holy Trinity Feel Good (By Rev. Anthony Menzel, December 6, 2020)

\*\*\*One victory I have had during my battle with COVID...  
Even in the moments of discouragement, I always told the Lord Jesus I loved Him...  
Even when He felt far away from me, I didn't fall into the trap of saying "Why me?" and being angry...

I am very grateful that my wife was very supportive during the worst of my battle with COVID...  
She did not tell me to curse God and die...  
To the contrary, she was pushing me to get as much medical treatment as possible so that I would get better...  
However, in the midst of severe sickness, there is that temptation to get frustrated and say negative things about the Lord Jesus....  
That's exactly what the devil wants us to fall into...

### Job 2:9-10

**9** Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? [c]Curse God and die!"  
**10** But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

When we are going through sickness or  
other hard times, we have to remember that we do not know God's plans...

When I was going through COVID, for example, the Lord Jesus purified me....

### James 1:2-4

**2** My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, **3** knowing that the testing of your faith produces [a]patience. **4** But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be [b]perfect and complete, lacking nothing.

There are certain thoughts that I used to tolerate, for example, that I simply do not want any more...

### Romans 12:1-3

**12** I beseech[a] you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your [b]reasonable service. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

## Serve God with Spiritual Gifts

**3** For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith.

There are certain priorities, like praying with my nuclear family, that have become more important than ever before...

\*\*\*Why do we love the Holy Trinity?

It should not just be for things He is going to do, but for things He has already done...

The Father...

He made us...

Psalm 139:1-18

**139** O Lord, You have searched me and known *me*.

**2** You know my sitting down and my rising up;

You understand my thought afar off.

**3** You [a]comprehend my path and my lying down,  
And are acquainted with all my ways.  
**4** For *there is* not a word on my tongue,  
*But* behold, O Lord, You know it altogether.  
**5** You have [b]hedged me behind and before,  
And laid Your hand upon me.  
**6** *Such* knowledge *is* too wonderful for me;  
It is high, I cannot *attain* it.  
**7** Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
**8** If I ascend into heaven, You *are* there;  
If I make my bed in [c]hell, behold, You *are there*.  
**9** *If* I take the wings of the morning,  
And dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
**10** Even there Your hand shall lead me,  
And Your right hand shall hold me.  
**11** If I say, "Surely the darkness shall [d]fall on me,"  
Even the night shall be light about me;  
**12** Indeed, the darkness [e]shall not hide from You,  
But the night shines as the day;  
The darkness and the light *are* both alike *to You*.  
**13** For You formed my inward parts;  
You [f]covered me in my mother's womb.  
**14** I will praise You, for [g]I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made;  
Marvelous are Your works,  
And *that* my soul knows very well.  
**15** My [h]frame was not hidden from You,  
When I was made in secret,  
And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.  
**16** Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.  
And in Your book they all were written,  
The days fashioned for me,  
When as *yet there were* none of them.  
**17** How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God!  
How great is the sum of them!  
**18** *If* I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand;  
When I awake, I am still with You.

\*\*\*The Lord Jesus  
He left heaven to save us...

### **Philippians 2:5-8**

**5** Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it [b]robbery to be equal with God, **7** but [c]made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. **8** And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

I want to love Christmas first and foremost because of the gift the Father and the Son gave by having the Lord Jesus come down to earth on Christmas...  
Everything else...the gifts, the decorations, picturesque scenery...should all be secondary...

\*\*\*The Holy Spirit...

I absolutely love the Holy Spirit for every moment He has touched me...  
The worst part of COVID for me was being so sick that I could not feel the rivers of living water of the Holy Spirit...

John 7:37-39

**37** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38** He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those [g]believing in Him would receive; for the [h]Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

However, those days without the touches of the Holy Spirit made me appreciate even more each touch I had received in the past...

\*\*\*Sometimes people get discouraged about their circumstances...  
They get frustrated because they don't see the Lord Jesus moving in their situation...

One thing we should always remember is that the greatest victories are heavenly victories....

### **Luke 10:17-20**

**17** Then the [e]seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."

**18** And He said to them, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. **19** Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. **20** Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but [f]rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

Likewise, the greatest miracle is not physical healing or financial provision...

The greatest miracle is the salvation of the soul...

The Lord Jesus wants to prosper us in every way, but He wants our main focus to be on salvation...

3 John 2

**2** Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.

### **Matthew 16:24-26**

**24** Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. **25** For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. **26** For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

Remember that there are those who receive their victory both in this life and in heaven, but there are also those whose main victory is in heaven....

Make sure that you keep your heavenly reward by staying with the Lord Jesus in the midst of your trials...

### **Hebrews 11:1-6,32-40**

**11** Now faith is the [a]substance of things hoped for, the [b]evidence of things not seen. **2** For by it the elders obtained a *good* testimony.

**3** By faith we understand that the [c]worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

## **Faith at the Dawn of History**

**4** By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks.

**5** By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. **6** But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

**32** And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also of David and Samuel and the prophets: **33** who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked

righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, **34** quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. **35** Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. **36** Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. **37** They were stoned, they were sawn in two, [k]were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented— **38** of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth.* **39** And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, **40** God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

\*\*\*Now in these times of trials are we going to stop focusing and relying on the power of the Lord Jesus?

More than ever, we have to confess truths such as the fact that we are healed by the wounds that the Lord Jesus suffered for us...

### **1 Peter 2:21-25**

**21** For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for [e]us, leaving [f]us an example, that you should follow His steps:

**22** “Who committed no sin,  
Nor was deceit found in His mouth”;

**23** who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed *Himself* to Him who judges righteously; **24** who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose [g]stripes you were healed. **25** For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and [h]Overseer of your souls.

However, at the same time, we need to be prepared to suffer well at times...

Following the Lord Jesus involves carrying a cross for Him...

Part of that cross is loving the Holy Trinity at all times...

### **Habakkuk 3:17-19**

**17** Though the fig tree may not blossom,  
Nor fruit be on the vines;  
Though the labor of the olive may fail,  
And the fields yield no food;  
Though the flock may be cut off from the fold,  
And there be no herd in the stalls—

**18** Yet I will rejoice in the Lord,  
I will joy in the God of my salvation.

**19** [d]The Lord God is my strength;  
He will make my feet like deer's *feet*,  
And He will make me walk on my high hills.