

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Must I Accept All "Divine" Revelation?

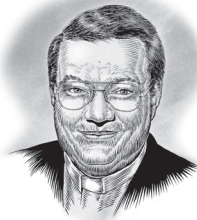
Know This...

God revealed Himself and communicated His plan of salvation through divine revelation. There are two forms of divine revelation: public and private. They do not carry the same weight or demand the same response from us. *Public revelation* is the "supernatural manifestation of truth" as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. *Private revelation* is a personal encounter with Jesus, His Mother, His angels or Saints. Christians must accept all public revelation with the assent of faith. Unlike public revelation, private revelation is not part of the Deposit of Faith and does not require the assent of the faithful.



John: All public revelation is found in Apostolic Tradition, the oral and written Word of God as revealed by Jesus Christ to His Apostles and passed on through His Church.

James: The Church says public revelation ended with the death of the last Apostle, but private revelation will continue to occur until the Second Coming of Christ.



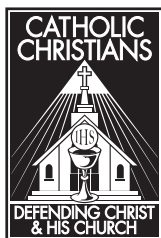
John: The Second Vatican Council proclaimed what the Church has always taught, "Jesus Christ is the mediator and fullness of all revelation."

James: Public revelation contains all the wisdom and knowledge a person needs to believe in God, to answer His calling, and to enter His heavenly kingdom. Yet, all too often, some of us turn to private revelation for answers to our faith questions and doubts; especially, insight on the end times.

John: Public revelation, not private revelation, must be the focus and center of our lives. Jesus has revealed, through public revelation, all we need to know to attain salvation.

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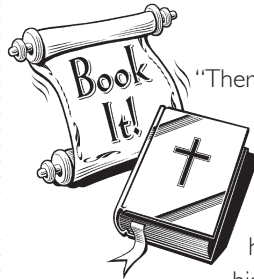
"The true light [Jesus] that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not... No one has ever seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father; he has made him known." Jn 1:9-10, 18



"Through divine revelation, God chose to show forth and communicate Himself and the eternal decisions of His will regarding the salvation of men. That is to say, He chose 'to share with them those divine treasures which totally transcend the understanding of the human mind.'" Vatican II, Dei Verbum, 6 "Throughout the ages, there have been so-called 'private' revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history... [The] Christian faith cannot accept 'revelations' that claim to surpass or correct the Revelation of which Christ is the fulfillment." CCC 67



BE ATTITUDES "I will only warn you that, when you learn or hear that God is granting souls these graces [private revelation], you must never beg or desire Him to lead you by this road. Even if you think it is a very good one... There are certain reasons why such a course is not wise... When a person has a great desire for something, he convinces himself that he is seeing or hearing what he desires... You may well find that the very thing from which you had expected gain will bring you loss." St Teresa of Avila



"There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed." Gal 1:7b-8 "Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is not strange if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness." 2 Cor 11:14-15 "Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything; retain what is good. Refrain from every kind of evil." 1 Thess 5:19-22

Lord Jesus, You are the source of all revelation: public and private. Yet, everything I need in order to know, love, and serve God, You have revealed through public revelation. While I remain open to Your revelation through a personal and private encounter with You, Your Mother, Your angels, or Your Saints, give me the grace to seek and find answers to my questions and doubts in the Deposit of Faith. I ask this in Your Most Holy Name. Amen.

