

FAITH CHAT

with James & John

Where's Our Road Map For Serving God?

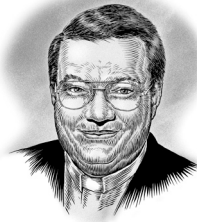
Know This...

God gave us the Ten Commandments. Jesus simplified them into two. Then, to help us live them, He taught the Beatitudes and explained the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity. What is faith? Believing in the unseen. What is hope? Trusting in God's promise. What is charity? Loving and caring for others. The Beatitudes and Virtues are our road map for serving God.



John: God created us that we might come to know, love, and serve Him; and, that we might sing His praise and glory as we make Him the center and focus of our daily lives.

James: Living a Christian life is challenging; but, if we live the Beatitudes, we will share in the ultimate reward: joy and happiness in this life and eternal salvation in the next.



John: The eight Beatitudes do not contain the complete teaching of Jesus; but they do show us how to grow in Christian holiness and perfection.

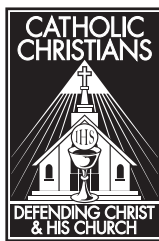
James: The Beatitudes make us aware of our need for God's mercy and love. They make us aware of our need to be humble, obedient, forgiving, and persistent.

John: Jesus took on human nature to set the standard for fulfilling the two great commandments, for living the Beatitudes, and for practicing the Virtues.

James: When we live the Beatitudes and practice the Virtues, we find happiness, we serve God, and we fulfill His plans for us.

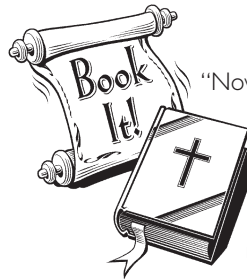
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"When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up the mountain, and after He had sat down, His disciples came to Him. He began to teach them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you (falsely) because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'" Mt 5:1-12a

"The Beatitudes are at the heart of Jesus' preaching." ccc 1716 "With beatitude, man enters into the glory of Christ and into the joy of the Trinitarian life." ccc 1722 "The Beatitudes confront us with decisive choices concerning earthly goods; they purify our hearts in order to teach us to love God above all things." ccc 1728 "It is clear that the knowledge of good and evil is one thing, but virtue is another; for knowledge can exist without virtue...Virtue is not the knowing of good and evil. Rather, virtue is the doing of good and not-doing of evil." Lactantius, 310 A.D.



"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Heb 11:1 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Heb 10:23 "And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing...So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor 13:2, 13 "Never let evil talk pass your lips; say only the good things men need to hear; things that will really help them. Do nothing that will sadden the Holy Spirit with whom you were sealed against the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, all passion and anger, harsh words, slander, and malice of every kind. In place of these, be kind to one another, compassionate, and mutually forgiving, just as God as forgiven you in Christ." Eph 4:29-32

Almighty God and Father; You know my weaknesses and You know how persistent Satan is in trying to bring about my destruction. Fill me with Your Spirit that I might live the Beatitudes, practice the Virtues, and reject Satan's evil ways. I pray that You will stay with me forever; that You will strengthen me with Your grace; and that You will keep me meek, humble, faithful, hopeful, and charitable. Grant this through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

