

A Little Girl's Question

By Father John Catoir JCD -11/12/17

On day a little girl asked me a very lovely question, "*What can I do to please God?*" I paused a moment and answered, "The first thing you need to know about God is that He wants to be your best friend. So, your question is itself very pleasing to Him. Do you understand?"

She answered, "*Yes I think so. But how does that please him?*" It pleases Him because it gives Him a chance to share in your life more closely. God likes to be invited in. He is very pleased when you let Him know that you are open to sharing your life with Him day by day.

It pleases God immensely when He hears from you, knowing that you think of Him as your Father in heaven. He wants to give you His strength and joy and love every day. In that way you are able to experience His gifts any time you want.

The little girl hesitated and said, "*I've tried that, but it doesn't always work. Sometimes I want to feel His love, but nothing happens.*" The priest smiled, "I understand what you mean. It doesn't always work for me either. Sometimes God doesn't answer us right away, or in the way we might like.

The activity of God in our lives is mysterious. To deal with this, you have to depend more on your faith than your feelings. Let me ask you, do you believe God is always present, whether you feel Him or not? She perked up, and said "Yes." Good for you, I said, because God's love is always with you.

You may feel alone at times, but God is right there, stroking your brow, saying I love you. Or, you may feel unworthy at times, but God sees you as His most beloved daughter. No one is

worthy. So, don't depend on your feelings in these matters, depend on your faith. God is love. Since you know you are loved, forget about any feelings to the contrary.

Let me remind you of what you learned about actual grace. Actual graces are good thoughts that come to you right from God. They are inspirations that jump into your mind; like the desire to visit a sick person, or to thank your mother for something she did for you yesterday. It's always nice to tell her you love her.

Actual graces always lead us to perform some charitable act, done in His name. Jesus said, "What you do for the least of my brethren you do for me." Though all this might seem hard to comprehend, it's no more mysterious than the fact of your own existence.

There are a lot of natural mysteries that are part of life. How does electricity work? What keeps my heart beating? Why did the sun rise this morning? What's going to happen next in the political world? Yes, there are plenty of natural mysteries, and they run side by side all the supernatural mysteries.

A natural mystery might be the miracle of birth. How does a baby survive in her mother's womb? A supernatural mystery might be the fact that God loves to forgive the sinner. The Sacrament of Baptism made you a child of God. Your intimacy with Divine Life may be difficult to understand, but it's true nevertheless. God loves you and He always will.

Am I *making* sense? She nodded, "*Yes, Father, thank you very much.*"