

## #21 Significance of the Creed Part 2

July 28, 2019

### **When I recite the creed, what exactly am I saying I believe in?**

First, we must understand what “to believe” really means. “To believe in” means to accept and have confidence in the truth of something. We do not immediately trust every person we meet. To come to believe and trust a person, either we experience their trustworthiness or accept their reputation. To come to believe in God, we must trust what others say of Him and from this develop our own relationship with Him. The reputation of Christ was solidified in the blood of martyrs from which springs our unshakeable trust in God.

The journey to belief in God is a three-step process. The first step is the search for Him. Within the heart of every human person is the natural desire for God. We may not understand this desire, yet we feel its ache. We may attempt to soothe this ache with any number of things – money, friends, work, possessions. Yet, as St Augustine says “Our heart is restless until it finds rest in God.”

Once we recognize our yearning for something greater, God will reveal Himself to us. This is the second step towards belief. He wants to be known by us. It is the Church’s role to explain what Jesus reveals about God. We’ll never fully understand God as Scripture says, “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:9) When it comes to believing God, we must learn to trust Him and His Church. We are more willing to trust our calculator, GPS or even scientists than God. Jesus says “blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29)

The final step to profess our belief in God is our response to Him. Every person has a unique journey to God. Our free will allows us to choose to believe or not to believe in God and the revealed truths protected and taught by the Church. Eventually, our final acceptance of God and the Church is a leap of faith as St Paul says, “for we walk by faith, not by sight”. (2 Cor 5:7)

Before we profess the Creed, we must be sure of our basic belief in God. Faith and trust are not easily achieved. To trust God, we must have a relationship with Him. If our faith is weak or we struggle with the teachings of the Church, we need to spend more time with God to come to know and trust Him better. Even when Jesus walked the earth, not everyone had faith enough to believe Him. Let us exclaim with the man from Scripture “I do believe; help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

Sources: