

## The Baltimore Catechism

### 97. Where was Christ's body while His soul was in limbo?

While His soul was in limbo, Christ's body was in the Holy Sepulchre.

### 98. When did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead, glorious and immortal, on Easter Sunday, the third day.

### 99. Why did Christ rise from the dead?

Christ rose from the dead to show that He is true God and to teach us that we, too, shall rise from the dead.

### 100. Will all men rise from the dead?

All men will rise from the dead, but only those who have been faithful to Christ will share in His glory.

### 101. When did Christ ascend into Heaven?

Christ ascended, body and soul, into Heaven on Ascension Day, 40 days after His Resurrection.

### 102. Why did Christ remain on earth 40 days after His resurrection?

To prove that He had truly risen from the dead and to complete the instruction of the Apostles.

### 103. What do we mean when we say Christ sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty?

We mean Our Lord as God is equal to the Father and that, as man, He shares above all the saints in the glory of His Father and exercises for all eternity the supreme authority of a king over all creatures.



## This Issue

**God Will Protect You From Yourself;  
Let Him! Pg. 1-2**

## God Will Protect You From Yourself; Let Him!

I remember very clearly as a teenager an event that left me stunned as to how it was possible that I was able to prevent myself from getting seriously hurt.

I was riding my bike fairly slowly in an empty parking lot of a small office mall when the bike's front wheel suddenly cut hard to the right, sending me flying over the bike headfirst toward the pavement. The slow speed at which I was traveling had no bearing on how badly I was going to get hurt.

For some reason I was able to put out my right hand to prevent myself from landing directly on my head. I ended up with a badly scraped palm, but I prevented myself from landing on my head. I remember rolling on my side and then stood up, incredulous as to how I made that miraculous, gymnastic feat! That event was some 50 years ago, and I can recall it as clearly as the day it happened. God was protecting me from myself, even though I didn't realize it.

There are many other times when God was watching over me, and I didn't realize it. Years ago, a job interviewer at the end of an interview told me to expect a job offer soon. I never ever heard from him again. God was protecting me from myself.

There were occasions where I was apprehensive about taking a job offer at a

trending company, and I didn't understand why. I accepted the job anyway, and then I dearly regretted it six months into the job. God was protecting me from myself even though I didn't realize it.

The job I had in Massachusetts before moving to Michigan to work at Church Militant was where I decided to turn my career into God's hands (just 29 years into my career!). It was the most technically challenging job I had ever had. Many, many prayers asking God, through the Virgin Mary, for help to get a technical problem solved were answered very quickly. It was amazing!

Most recently, God has been active in our lives since we left Michigan on our cross-country trip. On travel days, after we get the trailer hooked up, I would pray to St. Joseph, asking him for his intercession to Mary, Virgin Most Powerful, in Jesus' name, for God's protection for our travel. We had one trip where we had a breakdown shortly after we prayed, but we were only 10 miles from the house of a relative, who got us on the road the next day by noon.

God was protecting us from ourselves during our house search in Florida. We learned of a buildable lot for sale very close to the beach. We met with a builder, and when we left, we

*(continued on next page)*

(continued from pg. 1)

felt very confident working with the company. We made an offer on the lot. The next day we learned the owner decided not to sell the lot.

A month later, we noticed a “for sale” sign on the same property. I called the real estate agent, and she said the lot was under contract. I wanted to ask her why we didn’t hear from her about the lot being back up for sale, but I simply said thanks and hung up. God was again protecting us from ourselves.

We then started to look into a different lot. While trying to get the best understanding about what it would cost to build that home, the home builder whom we had worked with on the first offer, and in which we had developed some trust, stopped returning our calls.

We are convinced this latest house we now have under contract is the house God wants for us, though our confidence isn’t easy to explain. When we hit those dead ends after a good amount of effort, we knew God was protecting us from ourselves.

It’s humbling to reflect on the events in our lives. Fr. Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalene, in his book *Divine Intimacy*, explains it well: “By examining ourselves thoroughly, we will see that discouragement always comes from two closely related causes. The first is that we depend on our own strength; through it our pride is wounded and deceived when we fall. The second is that we lack reliance on God; we do not think of referring to Him in times of prosperity, nor do we have recourse to Him when we fail Him. In short, we act by ourselves; we try to succeed alone, we fall alone, and alone we contemplate our fall.”

But God never wants us to act alone. “How it is, O my God, for a soul who loves you, to need

You so much that it can do nothing without You. ... You wish constantly to take part in my poor life ... to sustain me always by Your grace and .... never of Yourself abandon me,” Fr. Gabriel writes.

I waited too long to accept this kind of abandonment, and it affected the people around me, especially those whom I love the most. Abandonment to self doesn’t come naturally. It takes humility.

Jesus provided the perfect example of humility. For years, He lived unknown (“Isn’t He the carpenter’s [not Joseph’s] son?”). And even during his public ministry, He often subdued anything He did (“Don’t tell anyone what you have seen.”).

But living a “hidden life” is how we can perfectly manage the stress in our life. Fr. Gabriel writes, “In order to enter in the fullness of the hidden life, it is not enough to hide oneself from the attention of others; we must hide from ourselves; that is ... forget all excessive concern about ourselves” and to “live hidden and unnoticed.”

When we live this way, we are no longer bothered by someone’s tone of voice; we no longer worry about what someone may have meant by a particular comment; we are stress-free because we have abandoned ourselves to God’s care, mercy, love and grace. Plus, we are tremendously more productive because God is guiding our thoughts and our actions. Otherwise, as Fr. Gabriel explains, our “ego instinctively tries to excuse itself. [Our] pride, which is not willing to admit its mistakes and schemes ... [is] always finding some way to blame [mistakes] on other people or circumstances.”

My dearest children: **You are in mortal danger!** I failed to properly teach you the precepts of the Catholic Church and the beauty, richness and completeness of the Catholic faith. Therefore, I have taken on this little project. My goal is to produce this newsletter every month and send it along with little tokens to help you appreciate the gift. It is meant to bring about a moment of reflection and discussion. I love you, and God bless you!

## SHOCKFactor™

[I]n what does the good for us ... ultimately exist? [Aquinas] argues the highest good for us cannot be wealth because wealth exists for only the sake of something else that we might acquire with it. It cannot be honor because honor accrues to someone only as a consequence of realizing some good and thus cannot itself be an ultimate good. ...

[It] cannot be fame or glory either; these are, in any case, often achieved for things that are not really good in the first place. Nor can it be power, for power is a means rather than an end and might be used to bring evil rather than genuine good. It cannot be pleasure because pleasure is also a consequence of realizing a good rather than the realization of good itself; even less likely it is bodily pleasure ... since the body exists for the sake of the soul ...

[It] cannot exist of any bodily good of any other sort (such as good health). But neither can it even be a good of the soul, since the soul, as a created thing, exists for the sake of something else. Obviously, then, it cannot be found in any created thing whatsoever; our ultimate end could only possibly be something “which lulls the appetite altogether”; beyond which nothing more could be desired — and thus something absolutely perfect.

Aquinas concludes [it is] “not in creature but in God alone ... wherefore God alone can satisfy the will of man. ... God alone constitutes happiness.”

---

**From:** *By Man Shall His Blood Be Shed: A Catholic Defense of Capital Punishment*, by Edward Feser and Joseph Bessette.