

How do we testify to the presence of God in our life? Do any of you remember the TV comedian Flip Wilson? When he would do something he wasn't suppose to do or if he would get in trouble in some way, he'd look into the camera & say, "The devil made me do it!" He was always trying to get out of something, to put the blame. I can relate to that. When someone asks me why I did something, I say, "Fr. John made me do it. I like to give Fr. John as much credit as I can. (Dc doll vs bobble)

We can identify with Flip, for all of us at times like to wash our hands of the responsibility of our actions, at least the bad ones. When we mess up, someone else is usually to blame, or it was an accident. It's almost never our fault. We blame others for our mistakes, but we want the credit when we do something good—help our a family member, donate to a charity, or turn in found money. We want to make sure others **know** so we can get kudos & recognitions. I recall a Seinfeld show in which George tried to retrieve money from a tip jar at the fast food because he was pretty sure that the worker didn't see him put it in. The thought of not getting credit made the donation seem pointless to him.

We recognize the small-mindedness of this line of thinking. Yet, how may of us ever think, let alone say, "Jesus helped me do it"? How often do we take the credit? John the Baptist gave credit where it was due, to God. He testified over and over to the truth, acknowledging Jesus, even when others wouldn't. "I'm not worthy to unloose his sandal, greater than I, I have seen & testified that he is the Son of God." The good that happens in our lives, both **things done for us** & **things the Lord enables us to do for others**, is only possible because of a God who dwells in us & empowers us. That's who deserves the credit, & many times I forget to give credit.

What can we do? First, we can recognize just how involved God is in our lives, how much he cares, how much he provides for us. Perhaps we can stop blaming others for mistakes & also give credit to the Lord who supports us, sustains us, & motivates us & loves us. The reason it's not easy to give credit is that we **have the need** to feel as though **we matter**, as though we **make a difference**, & that **somebody is better off** that we're in his/her life. These feelings aren't wrong. You see, we're our healthiest **spiritually** when we're in proper balance—not feeling worthless, yet not feeling that we're indispensable; not too hard on ourselves, & not too proud either. When we're in balance, we're ripe for transformation, for God to work all kinds of wonderful things through us.

You know, it's in the smallest things of life where we find God. We always try to get past the **ordinary things** so we can do something important, Splashy. We miss the opportunity to meet God in the **ordinary moments** of our lives. Thirty years ago Pope Benedict XVI wrote: "Let us understand the **individual events of the day** as **little signs** that God sends us. Take note not only of the annoying & unpleasant things, but see how often God lets us feel something of his love." In article, Bishop Sartain wrote a list of simple things that reveal God's presence to him:

The coffee that warmed me early this morning; the psalm that caught my attention; the joke that made me laugh; the simple fact that God uses me for his purposes; the fallen leaves that beautifully displays God in nature; the stranger who held the door for me; the raspy cough that slowed me down & gave me a few hours of rest; God's astounding forgiveness & how unhesitatingly he receives me back when I have sinned; the fact that God is thinking of me; the fact that God knows me through & through; the fact that God desires my love. Yes, **my love**. The list is endless because God is with us always."

My brothers and sister, today let us look for God's presence where we most often find him in the the **common**, in the **ordinary**, & in the **unspectacular**." And when we act out of love, remember to give credit and say, "Jesus helped me do it."