

Easter7-A7 Homily by Fr. Gabor

Jesus prays that he may be glorified. Jesus as the divine Son of God enjoyed the glory of God before He came among us, which means that He as the divine Son of God possessed equally the magnificence of the Father and the Holy Spirit. So to be glorified means to have the magnificence of God the Father. However, here when Jesus asks the Father to glorify Him, He is asking that His humanity may also be glorified.

To understand the glorification of his humanity properly we need to notice that Jesus asks for His glorification before His arrest. So when He prays that His humanity may also be glorified Jesus is asking the Father that His humanity may also enjoy God's magnificent love, because God's essence is love, so His glory is essentially about the fullness of His love. The most perfect and powerful way in which Jesus' humanity is soaked with God's glory is when Jesus is suffering on the cross for us human beings, in order to free us from captivity to Satan. Remember Jesus says, no one has greater love than the one who lays down His life for His friends. So it is when Jesus suffers for us on the cross that his humanity is soaked with God's perfect love and glory. However Jesus needs the help of the Father and the Holy Spirit for this saving suffering and death. This is why He is asking the Father to glorify Him.

It is very clear also from St. Peter's letter that suffering and dying is an essential part of the Christian life, especially in terms of suffering because of renouncing the attraction of sin and dying to a sinful life. This is the main purpose of suffering and dying right from the time of the early Church, and just as Christ defeated sin through suffering and death and then entered into Heaven, so those who also want to receive the same eternal life have to suffer and die to sin. This is the essence of baptismal life: death to the old, sinful way of life, and being reborn into eternal life. So suffering and dying to sin is not alien to an authentic Christian life, as some Christians claim, but it is the most authentic sign of a true Christian life.

In fact St. Peter calls it a blessing when you are insulted for being a true Christian, ie. for trying to live a pure life in union with God's love, because it is a sign that you have the Spirit of glory; the Spirit of God's magnificent love.

Jesus mentions in his prayer in the Gospel reading that he prays for the disciples, because although Jesus leaves them they still remain in the world. Being engaged too much in the affairs of the world inevitably leads to committing the sins of the world. So the disciples, including us, need Jesus' supporting prayers, so that we may have the strength to resist temptations and especially that we may have the strength to suffer while we renounce the attraction of sin and grow gradually into eternal life. This is what it means to live a baptismal life and this baptismal life is our way of glorification by the power of the Holy Spirit.