

Covenant of Love

Group Outlines from Schoenstatt

God's Plan For You # 1

God's Plan for You

God has a beautiful plan for all of us. More than anything else, this plan is a plan of love. He guides us, he shields us, he shows us the way through life and he traces the paths that will ultimately lead to him and our fulfillment. When we make our Covenant of love it is our response to God's presence in our lives. We feel that this is what God is asking us to do and he has guided us to this moment. The Covenant is trusting in Divine Providence and acting on it.

Practical faith in Divine Providence is a daily searching for the will of God; it is a searching for the God of the Covenant who is interested in every single detail of our lives. He created us, he knows us intimately and he loves us passionately. Practical faith in Divine Providence is a key charisma of Schoenstatt's spirituality.

We often make the experience in our lives that we don't understand why things happen the way that they do. Illness, troubles, loss and conflicts all make the living out of faith difficult. Believing in God's Plan of love is such an important way to give an answer to times of hurt in our lives. God calls us to a *heroism of faith, trust and love*. All three belong closely together in the spiritual life. If one is missing, or removed from the other two, then we become restless and our inner resources become gradually emptied. Our Blessed Mother Mary inspires us because she knew how to combine faith, trust and love in her life in a dynamic way, and this became the basis of her strength and fidelity.

Believing in God's Plan is a sure motivation for making positive choices in our lives also. Often we stand at a crossroads and have to make a decision: career, moving house, or relationships. We adopt the attitudes of Jesus and ask the Father, what he wants. It doesn't really matter what we need or think we want; it only matters what God has in store for us. Practical faith in Divine Providence helps us grow in the reality of the supernatural world. It helps us see our personal lives completely linked to God.

Faith, trust and love for God's Plan is a liberating truth. It helps us discover again for ourselves the God of our life. The God who stands behind all the things that we struggle to accept or understand; the God who guides us daily and inspires us to come closer to him; the God who assures us that his wisdom is present even in the most complicated problems, his love is present even in the greatest upset and pain and his power is present even when we feel lost or helpless. He is the One who "*sits on the throne*" (Rev 5:1).

Growth in this practical faith is one of the key themes of Schoenstatt's spirituality. In fact, *the message of practical faith in Divine Providence is the core message of Schoenstatt*. We become mature in faith, trust and love when we can seek and find God in everyone and in everything. We feel a deep hunger to discover God's presence and activity in events and experiences, in the most insignificant and most important occurrences in our lives. The mature Christian is the one who trusts in the God of Life, who reveals his Plan of wisdom, love and power step by step in our lives.

When we look for God's will every day, we can speak about the *sacrament of the moment* – in other words, everyone and everything belongs to God's Plan. Everything that happens to us in our lives can be understood as a moment where God *greet*s us. Through these events and experiences we find the *means* and the *way* to abandon ourselves completely to him. We can repeat with St Paul: "*We know that all things work for good for those who love God.*" (Romans 8:28)

Questions for Reflection

1. What comes to mind when you hear that God has a Plan of Love for you?
2. Do you feel you can trust God completely?

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