

Take-Home · Session 10

Seeing and Standing: Knowledge and Fortitude

What We Found

The Gift of knowledge helps us see created things in their proper relationship to God: every created good is real, good, and pointing beyond itself. We should neither worship created things nor despise them; Wisdom 13:5 teaches us to recognize their Creator through their greatness and beauty.

The same Gift shows sin its true size, because sin is disordered love of created goods: delight in creation and honest grief at confession both come from seeing things as they truly are before God.

"But if not" (Daniel 3:18) is fortitude's signature: firmness staked on who God is, not on guaranteed rescue.

Timidity's prescription is rekindling, not personality change: the Spirit given us is power, love, and self-control (2 Timothy 1:6-7). The Spirit strengthens the baptized; our part is to stir up and cooperate with the grace given.

Endurance outranks attack: fortitude's ordinary field is the long illness, the costly workplace, the daily rebuilt marriage; for students, refusing a cruel group chat, telling the truth when lying would protect you, continuing to help when friends stop.

Voices of the Church

St. Ignatius of Antioch · *Letter to the Romans 4*

"I am God's wheat, and I am to be ground by the teeth of the wild beasts, so that I may prove to be pure bread of Christ." Fortitude complete in one sentence, fed on the Eucharist it echoes.

St. Thomas Aquinas · *Summa Theologiae II-II qq. 123 and 139, summary*

The Gift adds confidence beyond natural courage's ceiling, and endurance is courage's harder half.

St. Joan of Arc · *trial testimony, 1431, summary*

Asked if she was in God's grace: if I am not, may God put me there; if I am, may God keep me there. Pressured into an abjuration, she took it back at the cost of her life: fortitude that recovered is fortitude still.

Live It This Week

This week's one thing. Ten minutes outdoors: trace one beautiful thing to its Maker in deliberate prayer.

- Optional: Name your furnace and pray Daniel 3:17-18 over it daily, including "but if not."
- Optional: Rekindle concretely: confession or a Holy Hour, asking for fortitude by name.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 1:7 · For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power and love and self-control.

Before Next Session

Read 1 Kings 3:5-14 and James 1:5-8.

Scripture this session: 2 Timothy 1:6-8; Daniel 3:13-18; Wisdom 13:1-5; Psalm 27:1; Joshua 1:9 · Catechism: 159, 1808, 1831, 2473