

Struggles against the forces of evil

Homily, 27th October, 2016

Ephesians 6,10-20

father G. Paparone o.p.

The letter to the Ephesians urges us to seek our strength in God, to live our daily lives fighting evil, the tricks of the devil; reminding us, believers in God, an absolutely clear truth: **in this world, we must not only battle our weaknesses, others' weaknesses, but also the spirits of the air**, as St. Paul calls them, organizing them into various hierarchies, as angels and archangels are.

Therefore there is this worldview that contemplates not only the physical dimension, but also the spiritual one; and this latter is made of good and evil spirits.

However, beyond this explanation, this representation of reality that we accept and welcome with our faith, **the main issue is the battle against these forces of evil.**

This force of evil may be outside of us or inside us, it may be attributed to some spirits or even to ourselves, because we too are spirits somehow "fallen", having disobeyed God and being thrown out from Eden.

Well, what is St. Paul telling us?

He tells us something very simple: **do not rely only on your strength, but obtain your strength from the Lord.**

So, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

We have to live our life in communion with the Lord and this is a communion of thoughts, feelings, it's a sharing of the way of seeing the reality, it's reception of His Word, but above all it is obtaining His power from Him, to seek strength and vigour in Him.

That's because in His flesh He defeated the evil and the devil.

Therefore, if we live united to God, if we live in Him and with Him, we will have the strength to defeat any assault of the devil.

So let us renew our faith in His mighty power, let us purify our hope with total and absolute confidence in Him, and struggle daily with the Lord's strength and within the limits of our human weakness and vulnerability.

Doing so, day after day, gradually we will grow in goodness almost without realizing it.

Finally, may God help us to decide to fight evil every day, but first of all the evil in ourselves and not the evil in the others.

Praised be Jesus Christ.