

Spiritual Testimonies 34-35-36-37-38

Saint Teresa of Avila

34. A Spiritual Token

(Beas, 1575)

... Our Lord told me that since I was His bride I should make **requests** of Him, as He had promised that whatever I asked He would grant me.

As a **token** He gave me a **beautiful ring**, with a **precious stone** resembling an amethyst but with a brilliance very different from any here on earth. He then placed the **ring** on my **finger**.

I write this with confusion ... for I deserved hell.

Pray for me, daughters, and be devoted to St. Joseph who can do a great deal. I am writing this foolishness...

35. The Vow of Obedience to Father Gratian

(Ecija, Andalusia, May 23, 1575)

1. On the second day after Pentecost ... a person recalled a **great favor** from our Lord. Desiring to do **something special** in His **service**, she decided to promise **not** to hide any **fault or sin** ... from the one who stood in God's place...

She also promised to do all this confessor might tell her – in serious matters, of course — providing it did not go against her **vow of obedience**. Though difficult to keep in the beginning, she made it.

2. The **first reason** she decided to do this was because she thought she was rendering the Holy Spirit a **service**. The **second reason** was she had chosen a great servant of God ... who would help her **serve the Lord** more.

This learned man was **Friar Jerome Gratian of the Mother of God**. He only learned of the promise several days after she had made it.

36. The Vow of Obedience to Father Gratian

(Beas, April, 1575)

This is material having to do with my conscience and soul. Let no one read it even

though I be dead. Give it to the Father Master Gratian.

1. In April, 1575, while at the foundation in Beas, Master Friar Jerome Gratian of the Mother of God came there.

I had gone to **confession** to him but did not hold him in the place I held other confessors, by letting myself be **completely guided** by him.

One day while eating ... my soul began to be **suspended** and **recollected** ... A **vision** appeared like a flash of lightening.

2. It seemed our Lord Jesus Christ was next to me ..., and at His right side stood Master Gratian himself and I at His left.

The Lord took **our right hands** and joined them. He told me to **take this master** to represent Him as long as I live, and that we both agree in everything because it was fitting.

3. I remained with great assurance that the **vision** was from God ... I felt **assurance** from the vision ... **comfort** that going about **consulting different minds** with different opinions was now to **end**...

Twice more the Lord returned to tell me that He had given Master Gratian to me ... I made the proposal to carry out the Lord's request for the rest of my life, to follow Father Gratian's opinion in all as long as it was not offensive to God ... I was certain it would not be as I had heard that he had made the same promise as I had, to do the more perfect thing in all matters.

4. I was left with **peace** and **comfort** feeling certain the Lord wanted this... Each time I recall the **vision** I praise our Lord ... It seems that this promise must be for His glory, so I propose again never to make a change.

5. The second day of Pentecost, on our way to Seville, we heard Mass in a hermitage in Ecija ... alone in the sacristy, I thought of the **favor** the Holy Spirit granted me on the vigil of Pentecost and wanted to render Him a **special service** ... I recalled my vow of obedience that I was not able to **obey with perfection**.

The thought came to me that it would please the Holy Spirit to promise what I had promised in regard to friar, Father Jerome.

On the one hand, it seemed to me that I would not be doing anything by such a promise; **on the other hand** it struck me as **difficult**. I do not reveal my inner state to superiors. If you do not get along with one, another one comes along. Yet this promise would mean having **no freedom either within or without throughout my life**. I did not want to go through with it.

6. ... This **resistance** ... showed me that there was something I was not doing for God and which I had always **fled** ... The doubts that arose, whether or not it would be of service to God .. caused me to delay.

7. The battle over, the Lord gave me great confidence that I had made the promise for the Holy Spirit. The Spirit in turn was obliged to give the father light for him then to give it to me.

I knelt down and promised that for the rest of my life I would obey Master Gratian in all things as long as there was no opposition to God or to my superiors ... In sum, it was my intention to hold him in the place of God, interiorly and exteriorly.

8. ... It seems I did something great for the Holy Spirit ... so I have remained very happy...

Though I feared restriction, I was left with greater freedom; I was more confident our Lord would grant Father Gratian new favors for this service I rendered to God and that I might share in them and receive light in everything.

Blessed be He who created a person who so pleased me that I could dare do this.

37. Desire to Live and Serve the Lord

(Place and year uncertain, July 22)

On the feast of St. Mary Magdalene while reflecting on the friendship with our Lord I am obliged to maintain, the words He had spoken to me about this saint and having insistent desires to **imitate** her, the Lord granted me a great **favor** and told me that from now on I should try hard, that I was going to have to **serve Him** more than I had up to this point

This favor gave me the desire not to die so soon that I might have time to be occupied in His

service, and I was left with strong desire to **suffer**.

38. Locution about Father Gratian

(Place and date uncertain)

One day I was very recollected in recommending Eliseus to God... I heard, "**He is my true son, I shall not cease to help him,**" or some words to this effect ... Amen