

*Die to Self to Receive New Birth 'from Above'*  
*Gospel Reading for March 30, 2017*  
*With Divine Will Truths*  
*John 5: 31-47*

*Jesus said to the Jews:*

*'Were I to testify on My Own behalf, My Testimony would not be valid; but there is another witness who can speak on My behalf, and I know that His testimony is valid. You sent messengers to John, and he gave his testimony to the Truth: not that I depend on human testimony; no, it is for your salvation that I speak of this.*

*John was a lamp alight and shining and for a time you were content to enjoy the light that he gave. But My testimony is greater than John's: the Works My Father has given me to carry out, these same Works of Mine testify that the Father has sent Me.*

*Besides, the Father Who sent Me bears Witness to Me Himself. You have never heard His Voice, you have never seen His Shape, and His Word finds no home in you because you do not believe in the One He has sent. 'You study the Scriptures, believing that in them you have Eternal Life; now these same Scriptures testify to Me, and yet you refuse to come to Me for Life!*

*As for human approval, this means nothing to Me. Besides, I know you too well: you have no Love of God in you. I have come in the Name of My Father and you refuse to accept Me; if someone else comes in his own name you will accept him. How can you believe, since you look to one another for approval and are not concerned with the approval that comes from the One God? Do not imagine that I AM going to accuse you before the Father: you place your hopes on Moses, and Moses will be your accuser. If you really believed him you would believe Me too, since it was I that he was writing about; but if you refuse to believe what he wrote, how can you believe what I say?'*

**III. The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life**  
**The signs of the Kingdom of God**

*547 Jesus accompanies His Words with many "Mighty Works and Wonders and Signs," which Manifest that the Kingdom is Present in Him and attest that He was the Promised Messiah.<sup>268</sup> 548 The Signs Worked by Jesus attest that the Father has sent Him. They invite belief in Him.<sup>269</sup> To those who turn to Him in Faith, he grants what they ask.<sup>270</sup> So miracles strengthen Faith in the One who does his*

*Father's Works; they bear witness that he is the Son of God.271 But His Miracles can also be occasions for "offense";272 they are not intended to satisfy people's curiosity or desire for magic. Despite his evident miracles some people reject Jesus; he is even accused of acting by the power of demons.273*

### **III. Jesus and Israel's Faith in the One God and Savior**

*591 Jesus asked the religious authorities of Jerusalem to believe in Him because of the Father's Works which He accomplished.373 But such an act of Faith must go through a mysterious death to self, for a New "Birth from above" under the influence of Divine Grace.374...*

#### **From the Book of Heaven**

*V6 - May 9, 1905 - "And why, My daughter, can the soul, united to Grace, not do in advance everything that death must do to her nature? That is, making it die in advance, for Love of God, to everything to which it will have to die? But only those who dwell continuously with My Grace come to have this Blessed death, because by Living with God it is easier for them to die to everything that is fleeting. And as the soul Lives with God and dies to all the rest, her very nature comes to anticipate the Privileges which Must Enrich her at the Resurrection – that is, she will feel Spiritualized, Deified and Incorruptible, in addition to all the Goods in which the soul will take part, feeling herself the partaker in all the Privileges of Divine Life. In addition to this, there is the Distinction of Glory which these souls will have in Heaven; they will be so different from the others, as Heaven is different from the earth." Having said this, He disappeared.*

*V19 – Apr. 9, 1926 – "My Will is from Heaven, and wants to place in the soul that which is Divine and which belongs to Heaven; therefore one's own self remains on an empty stomach and feels itself dying. So, in feeling her own self dying and in losing the hope of having any other food left, the soul makes up her mind to take the Food of My Will; and as she takes it, her palate being purged, she feels the taste of the Food of My Will, which is such that she would not exchange it at the cost of her life."*

*V31 – Dec. 21, 1932 - "Now, with this Gift of Mine of My Volition that I go giving in all the acts of the creature, she receives a New Act of Divine Life. And I make her Reborn in that New Act that I give her, and she feels the New Divine Life that she acquires, and while she is about to form herself in that Divine Life, I do not wait, but immediately I make her New Gift of My Volition, and so the life of the creature*

*alternates with the giving of My Gift and with wanting to receive hers, so that she feels in herself the continuous Growth and Rebirth of her Life in the Divine. Now, so Great is this Gift that I make, that while I am about to do it, the Heavens are amazed and reverently abase themselves in order to adore a Gift so great, and they magnify their Creator for so much liberality, and everything puts itself at attention in order to be spectators of how this Gift develops in the act of the creature. And when they see the New Birth that she makes in Divine Life, they tremble in seeing the Great Portent that she is Reborn to New Divine Life for as many times as this Gift of My Will is given to her. And O! how they thank Me for so much Goodness of Mine, because everyone feels happier in seeing this Gift of My Volition Operating in the act of the creature.”*

**FIAT!**