



Women Touched by God

By Julia Monnin - Ohio

Woman touched by God, authentic reflection of Mary

Mujer inspirada por Dios, reflejo auténtico de María



"To speak to God is easier by nature for woman than for man because a natural desire lives in her to give herself completely to someone."

- St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

"Truly, we have much for which to thank the emancipation of women, since many false teachings, many injustices, and many practices that enslaved women have been overcome. But the aim can never be to put man and woman on the same footing, or to consider man and woman as existentially the same. ... The truth is, . . . [t]he two sexes are not alike; they are of equal value, but they are not the same. Hence, everything depends on whether . . . women exemplify the ideal of woman" (*Fr. Joseph Kentenich, Danielle Peters and John Larson, MIC, Mother Thrice Admirable: An Introduction to the Mariology of Fr. Joseph Kentenich, 135*).

Women, by virtue of their nature as women, have a "supernatural instinct" not found in the nature of man. In other words, living in a close relationship with God and becoming a person of deep prayer and service comes more naturally to a woman than it does to a man. Hence *women* by their very nature are *touched* in a very special way *by God*. In fact, it has been said that "[t]he woman is veiled because of the intrinsic, God-given ability women have to be close to God, to hear his voice, and to pass along his words to others. ... The veil is a sign of her relationship to God, which as part of the feminine nature is meant to be hidden, quiet, intimate, and open to hearing the wisdom of the Lord" (*Carrie Gress, Ultimate Makeover: The Transforming Power of Motherhood, 37*).

When talking about the evangelizing effects of Our Lady's visitation to Elizabeth, Fr. Kentenich pointed out that the effect of the Blessed Virgin's encounter with Elizabeth was that "She (Elizabeth) began to prophesy. Her supernatural instinct was outstandingly awakened." He goes on to inform us that "[w]e don't merely want to be able to string religious truths together; we rather want the whole supernatural organism to be awakened. . ." (*Danielle Peters and John Larson, MIC, Mother Thrice Admirable: An Introduction to the Mariology of Fr. Joseph Kentenich, 133*).

Again, as was said before, women, by their very nature, have a “supernatural instinct” not inherit in men. It is in having this “supernatural instinct” awakened that God, who from the very beginning of creation has touched the feminine nature of women in a very special way, chooses to, through these same women, touch the world. For, “[j]ust as there would be no redemption without Our Lady, so there cannot be a fruitful Schoenstatt realm without our Schoenstatt Mothers” (*Fr. Joseph Kentenich, Danielle Peters and John Larson, MIC, Mother Thrice Admirable: An Introduction to the Mariology of Fr. Joseph Kentenich, 134*).

This may seem like a tall order for us women to live up to. The topic might even perhaps seem a little daunting to those of us who doubt our own inherit “supernatural instinct.” And, yet, I can tell you from my own life that after encountering the Blessed Mother (and therefore the Lord Jesus whom she brought with her in her womb) in my own personal “visitation” I, too, like Elizabeth had my “supernatural instinct” awakened.

Perhaps this isn’t the case with everyone. In fact, perhaps some women stay close to the Lord throughout the entirety of their lives so much so that their “supernatural instinct” never falls asleep to begin with. But I think, for many us, the case is similar: we, from birth, know how to remain close to the Lord in a prayerful way but then somehow “lose” this ability as sin creeps into our lives.

Regardless of where you’re at in your soul’s journey, it is reassuring to know that if this “supernatural instinct” is inborn and, therefore, naturally a part of our being as women, then it takes just a little stirring of the coals to get the fire going again. And what are some ways that we can cooperate with the grace the Lord gives us in order to stir into flame the low burning coals of our God-given “supernatural instinct”? One way, already mentioned, would be of course to invoke the help of the Blessed Mother. This can be done in a real, powerful way by making a consecration to her. Other ways might include deepening our lives of prayer, invoking the intercession of the community of Saints living in eternal life, extending ourselves in acts of service inside and outside our homes, and – of the utmost importance – bathing ourselves in the sacramental graces of the Church by increasing, in fervor and (quite possibly) in frequency, our reception of the Sacraments.

To close, let us pray: *May we, members of the feminine race specially touched by God from the very beginning of creation, continue to comfort, console, nurture, teach, and guide the world around us by allowing the Lord to awaken within us the “supernatural instinct” we have in the deepest part of our being.*

For Reflection:

Has the “supernatural instinct” inherit in you as a woman been “outstandingly awakened”? If so, how can you tell? If not, what might the Lord be asking you to do to allow it to be?