

Living Faith in Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 18**.

❖ Grace is given to all those who accept and believe God. Through our Baptism, we receive the gift of grace, a share in God's own life. Sanctifying grace is the special grace of God dwelling within us.

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❖ Our desire to do what is right comes from the Holy Spirit, who was sent to give us strength. This feeling is part of that strength.

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❖ Grace is given freely, not earned. You must be open to God's grace in order to share in God's life. The more you accept God's grace, the more influenced you are by him. But people are free to reject God's grace and friendship.

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❖ The Theological Virtues are faith, hope, and charity. These gifts are given by God and centered on God. Faith is the virtue by which we believe God and accept as true all he has revealed and teaches through the Church. Hope is trust and confidence that God will give us eternal life and the help we need along the way. Charity (love) is the virtue that helps us love God and give God first place in our lives.

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❖ Despair and presumption are sins against hope. Presumption is the sin of expecting God to give you all you hope for without cooperating with his grace or living as a Christian. Despair is to believe God cannot or will not help, so you give up trying to be saved.

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❖ The Cardinal Virtues are habits that allow us to do good acts and to give the best of ourselves. They are prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance. Justice is the virtue that guides us to respect the rights of others. Prudence is the virtue that directs us to decide what is good. Fortitude is the virtue that gives us the courage to do what is right even when it is very difficult. Temperance is the virtue that helps us control our desire for pleasure.

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