



## What We Believe PART ONE: THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

# GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US

In his love, God reveals the full truth so we can accurately know him, ourselves, and his will. Divine revelation occurs gradually through the real events and people of the Old Testament and then reaches complete fullness in Jesus. Jesus doesn't establish a new truth or religion, but fulfills the Old Covenant and establishes the new, everlasting covenant. Divine revelation comes to us through Scripture and Sacred Tradition. We need both; if Scripture is the sole source, the Bible would teach this, but it does not. In fact, the canon of Scripture itself comes from Sacred Tradition.

## Keep in Mind

- God revealed himself fully and completely in Jesus; there will be no further divine revelation.
- Sometimes a private revelation reemphasizes or introduces a spiritual insight. If nothing in its message contradicts faith and morality, a private revelation may be approved, but Catholics are not required to believe it.
- The Church transmits divine revelation directly from the Apostles to their successor bishops (Sacred Tradition).
- Sacred Tradition does not change and is expressed in the Church's dogmas and doctrines.
- A dogma is a truth revealed by God and declared binding by the Magisterium (the bishops of the world united with the pope).
- Dogmas are not restrictions but gifts from God that provide clear boundaries so we can grow in our faith without straying from it.
- Unlike Sacred Tradition, “small t” traditions include Church practices that can change, like abstaining from meat on Fridays.
- In Scripture, God employed human authors for his self-revelation. They cooperated with grace so God could speak to us as a father “in human words” (CCC 101).
- When we read Scripture, we encounter the living word of God that “firmly, faithfully, and without error teach[es] that truth which God, for the sake of our salvation, wishes to see confided to the Sacred Scriptures” (CCC 107).



*The Calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew*  
by Duccio di Buoninsegna (circa 1308)

## Dive Deeper

Jesus calls Peter and Andrew to become “fishers of men” in this painting (Matthew 4:19). The Church and Faith are built upon the foundation of the Apostles chosen and sent by Christ. *Apostle* means “one who is sent” (see CCC 75).

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

## Take It to Prayer

God our Father, we give you thanks and praise as we begin this day. We ask you to open our minds and hearts so we can receive what you revealed to the Apostles, and they handed on. You gave them your Holy Spirit to enlighten and enliven their faith. Help us to receive the Holy Spirit today so we can not only know about you, but also love you. We pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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*The Catechism in a Year* is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companion* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doege.