

in heaven are united to Him. They make up the Body of Christ and they are the Super Highways that God has built for us to aid us in going to Him

James 5:16

“... pray for one another, that you may be healed. The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.”

Matthew 18:20

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”

O.K. I can see that when I claimed to “Go Directly to God” I was assuming that I could achieve that all by myself. And I can see that the claim of going directly to God does not allow me to assume that the most direct way means that I may exclude how God may want to work through others. Now, I am ready to examine the Catholic claims that God wants to work through Mary so that I might go more directly, more completely, and more deeply into Christ.

Catholics worship only God.<sup>1</sup>

And the Catholic Church consistently proclaims each year the Biblical passages that teach God, and He alone, is to be worshipped. For example, Matthew 4:10, Exodus 20:1-3, Luke 4:8<sup>1</sup>

The purpose of Marian devotion is to help us love Jesus more. The primary reason we honor her is because of what God has done in her. Even more important than her vocation as Jesus’ mother was how God perfected her heart and her faith by His grace to which she was totally open.

See the Uniqueness of Jesus, the God-Man.<sup>1</sup> Mary is the perfect work of Jesus Christ. She does not detract from His glory, rather she reflects and refracts that glory. She does not undermine it, but rather she manifests His glory. She does not rob or diminish Christ of His glory, but rather she is the one who magnifies the glory that Christ gained for us through His redemptive work. (Luke 1:46)

Through her Jesus helps us to focus and appreciate the power of His grace and how He triumphed most completely over Satan in the human race. Mary is proof positive that God’s redemptive work is infinitely greater than our sin. He is her Savior and Redeemer par-excellence.

Jesus did not get a single drop of glory more for Himself when He redeemed us than what He had before He became Man. Jesus came into the world, redeemed us, and gave us the indwelling of the Holy Spirit not so that He might increase in glory, but so that we might partake and share in His glory.<sup>1</sup>

To make a long story short, I have converted to Catholicism. Now, I just try to help Catholics become better Catholics by helping them go more directly to God by appreciating how He works through the Saints and through the Church He built upon Peter. See Biblical case for Marian devotion below.

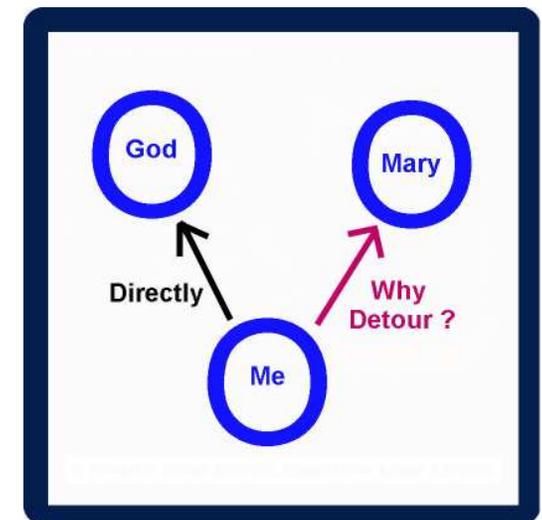
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Going

Directly to God ...



How to

Help Catholics

## Go Directly to God

The purpose of this pamphlet is to help everyone put Jesus Christ in the center of their lives, and to go more directly to God. Although it is a fictionalized account it contains many Christian truths on what is most important and the need to enthrone God and accept His Sovereignty in one's life.

My name is Paul. I am a Christian and I wish to share the Good News of salvation. There is only one way to heaven and that is by faith in Jesus Christ the One and only Savior. And, I desire to help others to go to Him in the most direct way possible. Acts 4:12.

As a Protestant I enjoyed talking with Catholics about the Bible, and I struck up a friendship with Carl, a Catholic. I have chosen to describe our conversations below with the hope that others will draw fruit from it. My statements are in **Red** while his are in **Blue** text.

Unlike other Catholics that I had met Carl really knew his Bible. He was a true Christian who had a deep love for Jesus Christ. We both held that the Bible was the infallible and inerrant Word of God, and so obviously we agreed on many important issues.

However, he confronted me with the question, "**We can ask others here on earth to pray for us and with us, and so when those individuals go to heaven we can still go to them and ask for their prayers on our behalf. And there are many other biblical**

**arguments for asking the Saints in heaven to pray for us, but why are you not willing to even examine those arguments ?"**

I told my Catholic friend Carl, "**I would never waste my time asking Mary to pray for me, or even giving serious consideration to your arguments attempting to justify it. Why settle for something that was at best second best, Mary e.g., when I could go directly to God?**"

**1 Timothy 2:5 "For there is one God. There is also one mediator between God and the human race, Christ Jesus"**

Carl had his way of going to Mary, even on a daily basis no less, and I wanted to save him from that. So, after much frustration with Carl and his Marian devotion, I wrote up a proposed agreement between us. It stated, "I accept Jesus as my Savior and as the only way to heaven. So, I commit myself to going to Him in the most direct manner possible."

**Carl, I said, If you want to continue our discussions you will have to sign my proposed agreement of going directly to God. "It is my way, or the highway."**

He replied, "**OH! I agree with that.**"

**And so you accept Jesus as the only way to heaven and that salvation is a free gift of faith that no one can earn no matter how many righteous deeds one does ?"**

**"Of course. Catholicism has always required that her followers accept all of that."**

**And do you agree that we should go perfectly and directly to God and therefore ignore the Saints ?**

**What can you do on your own in a most Perfect way by just using the whatever grace you already have ?**

**Well, nothing actually. We are all sinners. We always need to ask God for His help. He is the Perfect One.**

Correct. Consider the following scenarios. In the first, a man proceeds using whatever strengths and graces God has given to him up to that point in time. In the second scenario, the man asks for God's help and receives even more of His grace before proceeding. Which is better ?

**The second.**

Correct again. Our imperfections and our limited abilities make our paths crooked. And so the man who opens himself up to receive the help and grace that God wants to give to him through the Saints will be able to go more directly to God than the man who does not.

**But, God doesn't need the Saints.**

True, but strictly speaking what does God need ? Nothing and no one at all. However, He still chooses to work through the Apostles (Mt, Lk, Mk, and John) and Bible preachers. And God works through our relationships with them to give us grace. The question is not who does God need, but am I willing to humble myself and open myself to all the graces that He wants to give to me through others so that I might go more directly to Him.

Our primary focus should not be how we go to God, but "How does God come to us?," because what He does is infinitely more important than what we do. Romans 5:8

So, we must choose between your way of ignoring the Saints and opening our eyes to discover that super highway that God has built and upon which He invites us to come to Him. The Saints on earth and especially those