

On the Meaning of "Grace"

1. By the "grace" of God one properly means the divine *event* of God's love for us as the gift and demand of authentic existence, i.e., obedient faith (*oboedientia*) in the sense of both unreserved trust (*fiducia*) in God's love and unqualified loyalty (*fidelitas*) to God's cause.

2. But any *human* event experienced as asserting the possibility of such authentic existence as our possibility could only be a re-presentation of the *divine* event of God's grace, and so itself, mediately and indirectly, that event. For "the explicit self-awareness of grace in the Church is itself a grace" (Karl Rahner, *The Christian of the Future*: 85).

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