

IS THE POPE INFALLIBLE?

KNOW YOUR FAITH SERIES

Common objection:

“How can the Pope possibly be infallible? He is a human being and makes mistakes just like the rest of us.”

“So that the Church may profess the true faith without error, and preserve God’s people from deviations and defections, our Lord Jesus Christ endowed the Church’s shepherds with the CHARISM of **INFALLIBILITY IN MATTERS OF FAITH AND MORALS.**

The infallibility promised to the Church is also present in the body of bishops when, together with Peter’s successor, they exercise the supreme Magisterium, above all in an Ecumenical Council.” (CCC # 890-891).

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus tells the Apostle Peter: “And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the **GATES OF THE NETHERWORLD SHALL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.**

I will give you the keys to the kingdom’s of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:18-19).

Jesus keeps his promises to Peter, the first Pope: “I have prayed that your own faith may not fail...” (Luke 22:31).

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to guide, assist and continue his mission in the Church: “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth...I will not leave you orphans” (John 14:16-18).

Jesus tells his disciples: “Whoever listens to you listens to me...” (Mt.16:18).

INFALLIBILITY does not mean inability to sin. As a matter of fact, the Pope too goes to confession (sacrament of Reconciliation) on a regular basis to receive God’s forgiveness for his own personal failings and shortcomings (as should we all!).

When the Church, exercising her teaching role, proposes a doctrine for “belief as being divinely revealed”, and as the teaching of Christ, the definitions **MUST BE ADHERED TO** with the obedience of faith. (CCC 891)