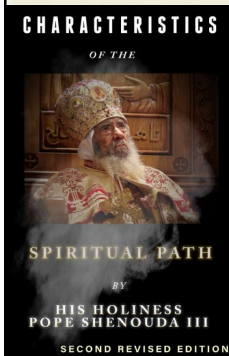


You are the driver!



Characteristics of the Spiritual Path



Commitment affects the realm of doctrine and dogma. **Every person who stands at the pulpit to teach should adhere to the teachings of the holy Bible and the doctrines of the church.** He should not present his listeners with his own opinions or beliefs, or his personal conclusions from his readings. Rather he should teach according to the words of the holy Bible and the Tradition of the church. To this effect St. Paul said to his disciple Timothy, *“And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

Keeping Church Teachings

- Agpia? Fastings? Hymns?
- *“Seven times a day I praise You...”
(Ps 119: 164)*
- *“Be diligent in teaching them to recite the holy scriptures which are the breath of God, and attending church services in the mornings and evenings, and fasting on Wednesdays and Fridays, the holy 40 days fast and all the fasts”
(Baptism Commandment)*

THE AGPEYA



The Coptic Prayer Book
of the Seven Hours

Your License

- Coptic Orthodox Church!
 - If you don't like it,
return your license, drive elsewhere!
- Raised in Coptic Orthodox Church
 - Agpia, hymns, liturgy, sacraments
- What happened?
 - “kids can't handle it”
 - You can't handle it!
- You are the driver!
 - *“Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2Tim 2:15)*



How to Drive

- Attend beautiful event (liturgy)
- Teach beautiful words (hymns)
- Do beautiful activities (summer festival)
- Loosen your burden (confession)
- You are the driver!
 - *“You are the light of the world...
Let your light so shine before men...”*
(Matt 5:14,16)



Lead by Example

- Holding cell phone while in church / class.
 - What message does that give?
- You drive the wrong way
 - You take him with you!
 - You'll attend his funeral!
- *“Let no one despise your youth, but **be an example** to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”* (1Tim 4:12)
 - Late Bishop Hedra – calmness
 - Fr. Mettaeous – Intercession



Lead by Example

- *"But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea...woe to that man by whom the offense comes!" (Matt 18:6-7)*

Stumbling block or a stepping stone?



Class A License

- Difficult to get, expensive
 - Can drive anything
- God gave us Class A License
 - *"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." (Mk 16:15)*



We are entrusted

- Entrusted to bring His children safely home



- “Go with this man, and God, which dwells in heaven, prosper your journey, and the angel of God keep you company” (Tobit 5:17)
- “But as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak” (1The 2:4)

- Flash high beam, blind people
 - Read / teach unorthodox points

Our Church

- Must everything be “Orthodox”?
 - Kids have friends. Why complicate things?
 - People just want to pray!
- You are the driver!
 - “For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you...” (1Cor 11:23)
 - Must abide by rules, signs, laws
 - Drive on right side of road in England?





The Destination

- Any servant in Coptic Orthodox church must:
 - LOVE, LIVE, BELIEVE, ACCEPT:
Coptic Orthodox church
- Sunday School = car: means; not destination
 - Every service is to bring child to God
 - Choir on NYE
- You are the driver!
 - Class A license
 - Must work hard, earn good wages
 - “The house you have in heaven... do you want a pool”?

Respectable Driver

- Dress nice, well-mannered, groomed
 - Look respectable, teach right, obedient, humble, churchly (knows the church)
- Coptic Orthodox Church
 - Respectable church
 - “I am Orthodox!”
- Tok-tok driver?
 - Drive anywhere, wear anything, hit everything, no license, no insurance, no rules...
- You are the driver!



Churchly Driver



- Good servant, but not churchly ?!
 - Good driver, but doesn't know how to drive!
- To be a servant in the church, must be churchly
 - Deacon teaches hymns, but doesn't attend liturgy
- Not hiring
 - counselors, scholars, activities directors
 - Origin: biblical scholar, fell in heresies
 - Theodore of Antioch: most prominent theologian of the Antiochian school – “The Interpreter”
 - Father of Nestorianism!
- Hiring: churchly drivers
 - Bible, Rites, hymns, Liturgy, Theology, ...

You Are the Driver!

- *“For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.” (2Cor 11:2)*
- Where are you taking your kids?

