

## “IS THERE HOPE? THE FASCINATION OF THE DISCOVERY”

# 26. The method of experience

“You cannot speak of experience simply in terms of ‘going through’ something. ‘The category of *experience* as we use the word has an absolutely critical value,’ Giussani said. It should not be understood as ‘sentimental immediacy,’ but as ‘the place where the impact with reality provokes the constitutive needs of the human heart, developing the search for an answer to the provocations of reality.’ Consequently, ‘*Experience* is therefore the sphere in which the person is called to verify whether the fact of Christ—the true, great working hypothesis—can respond to these questions with a vision of the factors marked by an authenticity and completeness that none of the other proposals have.’ He quickly added, ‘Therefore, the main intent of CL is its desire to rediscover and live authentically the fact that the Christian faith, as it has been maintained in the mainstream of orthodoxy, responds better than any other proposal to the deep needs of the human person’ (Giussani). [...] Authentic experience, as the place of knowledge and verification, cannot be identified as a simple subjective impression or a sentimental reaction. Experience is a ‘single, vital act and it is composed of three elements: a) An *encounter* with an objective fact originally independent from the person having the experience. [...] b) The power to adequately perceive the meaning of this encounter. [...] c) An *awareness of the correspondence* between the meaning of the Fact we have come across and the meaning of our own existence [...]. It is our awareness of this correspondence that verifies the growth of self that is essential to the phenomenon of experience’ (Giussani)”.

(J. Carrón, *Is There Hope? The Fascination of the Discovery*, HAB, Tampa & Denver 2021, pp. 82–84)

**GS proposes living faith as the best response to the needs of the heart. What is your attitude towards this proposal?**

We remind you that it is possible to send questions and witnesses to the website <http://eventi.comunioneliberazione.org/gscontributi/>