



FIAT

KEY TERMS

Fiat: A submission to the great things God wants to do in our lives, allowing Him to speak something new into our world.

TEACHING

If you could have one superpower, what would it be?

What if you had the ability to speak something into existence? This would trump every other superpower because you could literally will something into existence. Feeling hungry? Simply say, “I need a cheeseburger” and it would appear. Feeling like you need a vacation? All you have to say is, “I want to go to Hawaii” and you would find yourself relaxing on one of the world’s most beautiful beaches.

With this superpower, we could solve countless problems. If a serious situation arose, we could create a solution out of nothing. Inconvenience would be a thing of the past. We would no longer have to wait in line to ride a roller coaster with our friends. We could will our chores to do themselves. We could make it so our iPhone charging cord would never brake. Anything we need would simply be spoken into existence.

We could even look past ourselves and begin to help the world around us. Injustices like poverty could be eliminated with a single word. We could easily create

treaties to end wars. Entire cities that were devastated by natural disasters could be rebuilt, and hospitals could heal all people who are ill. Suddenly, this superpower becomes much bigger than our individual desires.

Creative Speech

We know that our words matter, but we tend to think about the negative power they have. We recognize the destructive nature of speech, but when it comes to believing that we could speak something good into existence, we begin to doubt our ability. But our words do have power to create, just not the way a “speak-things-into-existence” superpower can miraculously create food for us when we are hungry or transport us to Hawaii when we need a vacation. Our words become powerful when they submit to a higher power.

The word “genesis” means “beginnings.” The Book of Genesis in the beginning of the Bible tells the story of who we are, why we are here, and what we are supposed to do. It talks about how God created the world in a way that is ordered and good.

Genesis 1:1-2:25
CCC 282

God created by speaking, and He did so intentionally. God did not simply think up, hum, or draw the world. God did not imagine light. Instead, God used His voice to create.

read Genesis 1:3.

Later on in Genesis, we hear about how God created people.

read Genesis 1:26-27.

It is important to note that God created humans to resemble Himself — God’s image, qualities, responsibilities, voice. If God’s voice can create, it means ours can, as well.

Word and Light

Fast forward thousands of years to a little town where a young girl lives. She loves God. She is a devout Jewish girl, who is getting ready to marry a righteous Jewish man. But then her entire life changes.

Mary has a vision of an angel, Gabriel, who has some news for her. God has chosen her to bring the second person of the Trinity into the world. God is going to take on flesh, but out of all of the ways He could enter into our world, He chose to become a baby in the womb of a woman.

CCC 457-460
Luke 1:30-31

Choosing to enter into the world like this means that God needed to be raised as a child. God needed to do all of the things that humans do: learn how to walk, play, eat, speak. Mary, and her soon-to-be-husband Joseph, were responsible for teaching Jesus these things.

CCC 964

But God was not going to force this responsibility on Mary. Mary was able to decide if she was up for this mission — a mission that involves laughter, panic, patience, awe, and eventual heartbreak. Mary did not think of the answer. She did not make a hand motion or nod to signal her answer. No, Mary spoke.

read Luke 1:38.

Mary's words allowed God to take on human flesh and become one of us. This is a major moment in history — one of the Gospel writers said that, at this moment, "light shines in the darkness" (John 1:5). This writer, John, began his Gospel with an ancient hymn from the earliest Christian

community, in which Jesus is called "the Word."

John 1:14

read John 1:14.

This Word was going to bring light into the world. In the beginning, God created light through His words. Through Mary, God brought light into the world — the Word, Jesus. But Mary did not have a superpower that allowed her to speak something into existence. Instead, Mary was humble enough to let God work through her. Her word allowed God to send His Son to Earth. Her word was "*fiat*."

CCC 973

Fiat Makes Us New

Many years after Jesus' death and Resurrection, important pieces of writing that concerned Jesus and the teachings of the Church were compiled with prominent Jewish writings to create what we know as "the Bible." These writings were eventually translated into Latin.

CCC 120

When we read the Latin translation, we notice that the writer used the word "*fiat*" in a few key moments. When God created light, the Latin reads, "*fiat lux*" or, "let there be light." When Mary responded to the angel Gabriel, she used the word "*fiat*" when she said, "Let it be done." When Jesus taught people how to pray — telling them to pray, "thy Kingdom come, thy will be done" — the word "*fiat*" shows up, as well.

Matthew 6:10
Luke 1:38

Fiat is not simply a "yes" to God; it is an acknowledgement of and complete willingness to follow God's plan for our

lives. It is not laying something down but, rather, picking something up. It is creative. It allows God to speak something new into our world and enables us to bring Christ to others. It is an adventure. But we need to speak it, and we need to speak it from our heart. When we make our *fiat* to God, anything can happen.

What if you were able to speak something into existence? How would you use this power? Would you bring hope to those who are hopeless? Would you speak love into a world that is broken? Would you allow it to change you for the better?

This power exists, but we do not possess it. We can only speak in a way that opens us to the creative, incomprehensible, and incredible God who transforms us and our world, making all things new.

CCC 696

This year, we are going to be praying that word — *fiat* — allowing it to transform us. Let us pursue God's plans for our lives and recognize how He is speaking light into our world today. God can work through each of us in profound and unique ways. When we allow Him to do so, we allow Christ's light to shine into our world. But it starts with that word — *fiat* — and our intention when we speak it. As we say that word in faith and hope of what God will do, we make our *fiat* and trust that God will always respond, "Let there be light."