

May 15, 2016

Pentecost Sunday

We believe in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-11

Psalms 104:1+24, 29-31, 34

1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

John 20:19-23

At Pentecost time the disciples were gathered together when a strong driving wind was heard and tongues, as of fire, appeared above each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and Jews from various locations heard them speaking in their own languages as they spoke of the mighty acts of God. The listeners were amazed!

The psalmist praises the Lord with his whole soul and acknowledges the greatness of the Creator who renews the face of the earth. The Lord is glad in his works that are manifold. The psalmist will do his best to be pleasing to the Lord.

No one can say Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit and the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. The power of the Father accomplishes results through us. We are gifted by the Holy Spirit and given direction into different forms of service by the Lord Jesus. We are all baptized into the one body of Christ.

Jesus appeared in the midst of the disciples who, in fear, locked themselves behind closed doors. He showed them his hands and his side and they believed. He breathed upon them and they received the Holy Spirit. They are given the power to forgive or retain sins.

We receive power through the Father,
Ministry by the Son,
And spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit.

Pray that the gifts be fulfilled in you!



The disciples were invested with a mysterious energy from our Triune God and they were changed from fearfulness to outright boldness in their proclamations of God's mighty wonders. They became spiritually gifted by the Holy Spirit, led into service by the Son, and accomplished their mission by being instruments of the power of the Father. Their concept of self was transformed and they became gifted communicators in the Way of Jesus.

Natural talents are easily recognizable and appreciated in the modern world. The gifted athlete, the student scholar, the prolific writer are honored in obvious ways....the athletes receive high salaries, the scholar, scholarships at the best universities, the writer making the best seller list. But there are latent talents in all of us, especially talents of spiritual nature that seem to take a back seat at a time when needed most.

Modern psychology indicates there is an innate tendency of humans to grow on all levels while our Christian theology stresses a deeper dimension and calls for us to recognize a divine call to grow in holiness. The call is not purely external, is also inside ourselves, and is present in the spiritual gifts we too receive from the Holy Spirit.

We need to concentrate on things above and put more emphasis on the spiritual gifts which are over and above our natural talents. In many cases they lie dormant within us, ready to overflow into springs of living water. Are we truly exercising such gifts, are our leaders exercising them? How do we seek such gifts? How do we ask the Lord for them?



I remind you to stir into flame the gift of God bestowed on you. (2 Timothy 1:6)

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