

May 20, 2018 Pentecost Sunday

**We believe in the Holy Spirit.**

Acts 2:1-11 Psalm 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)



### **Come Spirit of Wisdom**

*O Lord you are great and powerful, your wisdom beyond all telling.*<sup>1</sup> In your kindness and generosity send down upon me, who trusts in you, the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen me in following Christ. *On the way to wisdom only you can direct me.*<sup>2</sup> Guide me into having a gentle heart where wisdom will rest.<sup>3</sup> Remind me to keep serious *thought of Wisdom* as that brings the perfection of prudence.<sup>4</sup> *It is much better to acquire wisdom than gold!*<sup>5</sup>

### **Come Spirit of Understanding**

Father in heaven, with your unfailing help I shall understand your ways. I desire to *get wisdom, get understanding,*<sup>6</sup> *at the cost of all I have.*<sup>7</sup> *Grant me discernment that I may learn your commands*<sup>8</sup> and your holy purposes. *To acquire understanding is more desirable than silver.* (5)

### **Come Spirit of Counsel**

Father all-knowing, send upon me *a spirit of counsel and strength,*<sup>9</sup> and *prudence to purify my heart* [(3), p. 71]. You sent your only Son for our salvation, and told us to *listen to him.*<sup>10</sup> Inspire me with His gift of *counsel to guide me*<sup>11</sup> into doing what is best.

### **Come Spirit of Fortitude**

Father all-powerful, help me overcome my weaknesses with the help of the Holy Spirit. I need courage to bolster my human frailty. Wisdom's works are virtues; *She teaches moderation and prudence, justice and fortitude.*<sup>12</sup>

### **Come Spirit of Knowledge**

Father all-wise and knowing, *you have probed me and you know me.*<sup>13</sup> Grant that the Holy Spirit may impart upon me *gentleness out of which knowledge is born*[(3),p.61], that I may better be able to love and serve those I encounter in life. *Give me an understanding heart and fill it with wisdom and knowledge.*<sup>14</sup> *Without knowledge even my zeal is not good.*<sup>15</sup> Just as a tree cannot reach towards the heavens without water so my heart cannot be raised up without knowledge of the "living water."<sup>16</sup> *True knowledge is a feast of God* [(3),p.43], and as a *crown is for the head, knowledge of God is a crown for the heart* [(3), p.39].

### **Come Spirit of Piety**

Father most holy, help me to *dedicate myself to justice and reap the fruit of piety.*<sup>17</sup> The grace of the Holy Spirit will help me *persevere to piety*<sup>18</sup> and lead *a tranquil life in perfect piety and dignity.*<sup>19</sup> This same grace humbles me before the sanctity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Confirm me in the Spirit by the gift of piety.

### **Come Spirit of Fear**

Father of Christ and our Father fill me with awe and reverence and fear which also is a gift of the Holy Spirit. *The fear of the Lord is training for wisdom*<sup>20</sup> and your unimagined power is often forgotten because of your divine gentleness and mercy. Inspire me to serve You and neighbor in a fitting way.

The Holy Spirit scrutinizes all matters,  
even the deep things of God.(1 Corinthians 2:10)

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<sup>1</sup> Psalm 147:5

<sup>2</sup> Proverbs 4:11

<sup>3</sup> *The Mind's Long Journey to the Holy Trinity,* The Ad Monachos of Evagrius Ponticas, J. Driscoll, Liturgical Press, 1991, p.40.

<sup>4</sup> Wisdom 6:15

<sup>5</sup> Proverbs 16:16

<sup>6</sup> Proverbs 4:5

<sup>7</sup> Proverbs 4:7

<sup>8</sup> Psalm 119:73

<sup>9</sup> Isaiah 11:2

<sup>10</sup> Mark 9:7

<sup>11</sup> Psalm 73:24

<sup>12</sup> Wisdom 8:7

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<sup>13</sup> Psalm 139:1

<sup>14</sup> Sirach 17:6

<sup>15</sup> Proverbs 19:2

<sup>16</sup> John 4:10

<sup>17</sup> Hosea 10:12

<sup>18</sup> 2 Peter 1:6

<sup>19</sup> 1 Timothy 2:2

<sup>20</sup> Proverbs 15:33