

Pentecost: Let Holy Spirit take hold of us!!!

Theological Reflection, Father Charles Menezes

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

The mandate given by Jesus still holds good for all of us. When the Holy Spirit takes hold of us, we will be able to do everything worthy of God in our lives.

SEE

We take a glass of water and just add a spoon of sugar and drink. It will not taste sweet. To sweeten the water we need to stir up the sugar and then drink. Similarly just taking up Christian names and living life in whichever way we like, will not bear fruit. We need to stir up the Spirit of God in our life and live a life of witnessing the Risen Lord; this will bear fruit worthy of praise.

The presence of God in everything - persons and events, creatures and creation is experienced through the Holy Spirit. God intervenes in our life through the power of the Holy Spirit and makes it fruitful. Let us try to understand this at the time of Pentecost:

We need to give ourselves into constant prayer and await on the Spirit of God to take hold of us (Acts 1:14) - as the disciples and Mother Mary were filled with the Holy Spirit on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-5)

Mother Mary is the best example to understand the designs of the Holy Spirit. She teaches us how to love and wait on him. When Archangel Gabriel came to her with the message of bearing a Son of God for the salvation of mankind, she was just a teenager and wondered as to how it was possible; yet she trusted in God and said YES, opening her heart to the Holy Spirit. This means; She...

- understood the plan of God (waiting for the Saviour as chosen to be a special instrument in the hands of the Lord) ;
- realized the power of the Holy spirit (a divine power to bear a son) ;
- rejoiced in the Spirit (was comforted in the Holy Spirit)

It is to understand the 3 functions of the Holy Spirit ; i.e. the spirit of Truth (Jn 16:13) ; spirit of Empowerment (Lk 24:45) and the spirit of Comfort (Jn 16:7)

JUDGE

Many a time we know partial truths and we react. But the Spirit of Truth will set us free from all bondages and empower us with the understanding to help us rejoice in God.

The effect of the Spirit of God is in the Old Testament

The Spirit of God is the source of life – Spirit was hovering on the waters (Gn 1:1-2); God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life (Gn

2 :7); The spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life (Job 33:4) ; When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth (Psalm 104:30)

The Spirit of God is Teacher and Guide - It is the Spirit in a man, the breath of the Almighty, that gives him understanding (Job 32:8). Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground (Psalm 143:10)

The Holy Spirit is the Manifestation of God's Presence - Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me (Psalm 51:11) ; Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139:7).

Spirit of God accompanied the men of Yahweh in their ministry - Joseph: (Genesis 41:38) ; **Moses and the 70 Elders who help him:** (Numbers 11:29) ; **Joshua:** (Numbers 27:18) ; **Saul:** (1 Samuel 10:6, 10) ; **David:** (1 Samuel 16:13) ; **Gideon:** (Judges 6:34) ; **Samson:** (Judges 13:25) ; **Balaam:** (Numbers 24:2) ; **Elijah and Elisha:** (1 Kings 18:12) ; **Isaiah:** (Isaiah 48:16) ; **Ezekiel:** (Ezekiel 2:1) ; **Daniel:** (Daniel 4:9) ; **Micah:** (Micah 3:8).

In the New Testament

Holy Spirit is the **helper** who will teach us all things and bring to our remembrance (John 14:26) ; He will help us bear **witness** to Christ (Acts 1:8) ; He will never put us to shame because its **God's love** poured into our lives (Romans 5:5) ; Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and **intercedes** for us (Romans 8:26-27) ; Holy Spirit helps us to **preach** Christ in everything (Acts 2:38) ; Holy Spirit is a **healer** (James 5 :13-15) ;

God will pour out his Holy Spirit on every mortal (Acts 2 :17) ; Gifts of the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12 : 4-11) ; I have nothing to boast about but i am compelled to preach. Ove to me if I don't preach (1Cor 9 :16) ; Its not I, Christ lives in me (Gal 2 :20)

The Spirit always points us to Christ because He knows that this is the only way a person can have their sins forgiven; repentance and faith and after that, the gift of the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to live a holier life and be sanctified by Him. Living the Christian life is not hard but the Holy Spirit makes it possible for we have the very power of God within us.

ACT

At times we seem to be in a hurry to excel in our human dealings. No, we need to wait on him and pray to the Holy Spirit for discerning. He will teach us to love, to be patient, to be merciful and to the way to the Kingdom. Let Holy Spirit take hold of us as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and allow him to guide us in to the way to immortality.

Questions:

- 1. What is your understanding of Holy Spirit in your life?*
- 2. What are the gifts of Holy Spirit you experience for the ministry of the Church?*
- 3. What is your decision to utilize Pentecost experience to live a life of Holiness?*