

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

May 23, 2021 • Pentecost Sunday • John 15:26-27, 16:12-15

Open to the Spirit

Jesus assures his disciples that after he has gone, they will not be alone. He will send them an advocate, the Spirit of Truth. After Jesus has ascended and commissioned his disciples to go into the world, the Spirit is sent just as Jesus had promised.

On Pentecost we celebrate the day the disciples and Mary received the Holy Spirit in a most dramatic fashion. Luke tells us in the Acts of the Apostles that they heard the sound of a powerful wind and saw tongues of fire. In the Gospel for this feast day, we hear about a gentler sending of the Spirit. After the Resurrection, Jesus appears to his disciples and says, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

There may not have been the sound of a great wind, or the drama of floating tongues of fire, but we each received the same Spirit present on Pentecost when we were baptized and confirmed. I was reminded of this fact several years ago as I prepared a group of teens for confirmation.

For years, before engaging in a difficult conversation, or standing up and giving a talk, I would lift my hands to the heavens and pray to be open so the Spirit could come in. While talking about the gift of the Spirit to those about to be confirmed I was reminded that through baptism and confirmation the Holy Spirit was already in me, and all I needed to do was pray to be open so that I could let the Spirit out.

We need to be open to let the Spirit of Truth and love speak with our voice, the Spirit of understanding and council listen with our ears and the Spirit of courage and strength walk in our shoes. When we share the Spirit of God that is in us, marvelous things can happen. Consider the disciples on Pentecost and how they opened themselves up so that the Spirit they received could be shared with the world.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Discuss what you each think the gifts of the Holy Spirit mean. The gifts are understanding, council, courage, knowledge, wisdom, piety and an awesome awareness of God.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

When have you experienced one of the gifts of the Spirit in your life? Which gifts do you most need now? What do you want to remember from last week? What are you looking forward to next week? What are your concerns?