

Day of Pentecost
June 4/5, 2022

Each who hear, hear God speak to them and they hear in their own language. God has come and those who will receive the message hear what the Lord is saying. Those who ignore, remain ignorant. Our Lord speaks to each one of us. Are we listening? Your being today here was by His call. I suspect we all make things more difficult than they really are.

Looking out at the world, I see so many common complaints about faith and the church. “Prove to me there is a God!” “Tell me how it is that you know.” “Do you have the Holy Spirit?” So many questions asked without seeming to listening to the answer. Is that not the insanity we experience each week as we hear the same story lifted up as if it were new. Even Jesus’ disciple asked what anyone in the Holy Spirit already knows is a silly question, “Show us the Father.” That is how the world thinks because in sin, we are unable to comprehend that God is real, personal, knowable, and right here with us.

There is sin in the world. And what is sin? It is that which is against God’s order. More specifically, it is not living, being, doing as the Lord has created us to be and do. We each are guilty of the infractions, which is why we confess. Degree does not matter. A passing thought or a cold-hearted act is the same. The hard part is living knowing that although forgiven, the fault has been ours. The harder part is living knowing that you are forgiven and that the Lord has called you to be with Him, in Him, and a part of His kingdom. You did not do this. He has done it. The point here is not to wallow in guilt, but to move forward in humility – the humanity God created us to be. Except for the grace of God go I. It is knowing that Jesus has saved you. It is a matter of living in that salvation. The discovery here is that the Lord does speak to us, each in our own language. He speaks to any and all who will listen. He is speaking all the time. Our problem is that we are often not listening.

God is not a respecter of any person, that is, all are equal in His sight, for, through Christ, He calls each and every one of us into His holy presence. If the Father does not see you through Christ, He sees an unrepentant sinner. If He sees you through the eyes of Christ, He sees one forgiven and redeemed. Through Christ there is salvation. Without Christ, it’s our own work, which means absolutely nothing. It is not that anyone in Christ is special, it is Christ who is one with the Father. You come to God through God and by His guidance and power. His ways are above our ways and His thoughts above our thoughts. Who can know the mind of God? Yet, in the mystery of life which we know here and now, He calls us to abide in the mystery of His eternal glory. We need not figure these things out – for who can. Instead, He has come so that we who do not know, may come into the presence of the One who knows all things. His Spirit has come upon us and not only us, but upon all who believe. To them He gives the power from on high to walk in His counsel.

If we are willing to come into the presence of the living God, it will be a new life. Some do, but it seems as though many do not. I am not talking about becoming really active in the life of the local fellowship, but becoming wrapped up in the threefold life of the Triune God. The Father sent His Son and the Son promised the Spirit. There are not three, but One who has invited us to come into the unity which has always been and always will be in Him.

Some feel exuberance, others feel nothing, but it is the same Spirit who leads us all. The Holy Spirit is not a feeling – it is God in the third person ministering to each one of us as we are, where we are, and who we are. It is knowing that He, the author and finisher of our faith has created us and in Him will finish us. Some have thought that there are special gifts given by the

Holy Spirit. If they are gifts, then they are ours to use as we please – for good or for ill, but that it not the work of the Holy Spirit. With God, all things are possible. Without Him, nothing is possible. In very simple terms, all belongs to God, so if God grants us the ability to do something as a willing servant, the power, which is His alone, works through each of the faithful when and where He pleases. What we do know of the Holy Spirit is that if we are dwelling in the riches of His abiding in us, we will bear fruit.

Jesus used the metaphor of bearing fruit on many occasions. If we are in Him and He in us, in the richness of the Holy Spirit, then we know that we will bear fruit. And what is this fruit? The fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. But these things, in and of themselves, are not gifts, but what happens when one is walking in the power and under the authority of the Lord. Let us set aside the selfish ambition for gain that rules this age and see things as they are, as they have unfolded, and live according to the word our Lord and Savior has given us for our instruction. The Spirit of truth will and does lead us. This does not mean that those who live by the Holy Spirit now know new things, except perhaps the one thing that matters, and that is that the one true God is in us, beside us, and ahead of us will lead us all the days of this life toward eternal life in Him.

To receive the Holy Spirit is to live in the relationship of Holy Trinity. To be led by the Holy Spirit is to know that we are slaves and the Lord will direct our days and our deeds. Yes, pray for awakening in our culture, but know that you who walk in the light of the Lord are called first to shine the light which is in you. When two or more are gathered in Jesus' name – and keep in mind that His name means "God's salvation" – there He is in the midst of them. When those empowered by the Holy Spirit are in the Spirit, listening to the Spirit, and heeding the direction of the Spirit (who is One with the Father and the Son), they are in the midst of salvation. This, in part, is what is meant by walking in the Spirit. It is not some mystical power or ability, but the very presence of God in and through the one who hears and heeds the call received in baptism to let the light shine. Let your light shine so that others may see the Holy Spirit at work in you.

"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

If, in fact we walk in the Spirit, we are already united with Him, both in His death on the cross and in His resurrection. There is suffering in this world. The suffering is the product of sin in the world. The wages of sin is death and indeed it abounds in our world. But greater is He who is in you than he who is the world. You have already obtained the gift through the promise of Christ. The power is His, but it is in you. Look to the Lord and know that the great work of salvation has been done for you. Not only for you, but for all who believe. Do not fall back into the doubts and confusion of this age, but look and see that you too can speak in each person's language. No matter the person you encounter, their background, or experience, all can be reached with the amazing love of God which is ours in Christ. Go out into the world and speak with your actions the love of God. Love your neighbor knowing that whomever you meet is the neighbor the Lord has sent across your path. May the peace which Christ gives, such as the world is unable to give, keep your hearts and minds upon the living and eternal Lord. Do not be afraid, for the Holy Spirit is in you! Amen.

English: Believe in Jesus
Hebrew: עוֹשֵׂי בְיַמְאֵהֶל
Italian: credi in Gesù
Russian: верить в Иисуса
Portuguese: acredite em Jesus
Hindi: yeeshu mein vishvaas karo
Spanish: creer en Jesus
Swedish: tror på Jesus
Norwegian: tro på Jesus
Greek: πιστέψτε στον Ιησού
German: an Jesus glauben
Dutch: geloof in Jezus
Chinese: Xiāngxìn yēsū
Japanese: Iesu o shinjiru
Gaelic: creid in Íosa
Hmong: ntseeg Yexus
Africans: glo in Jesus
Romanian: crede în Isus
Amharic: be'īyesusi mameni
Icelandic: trúðu á Jesú
Swahili: mwamini Yesu
Malagasy: mino an'i Jesosy
Latin: credo in Jesum
Lao: seu naiphra yesu
Hawaiian: e mana'io ia Iesu
Vietnamese: tin vào Chúa Giê-su
Zulu: kholwani kuJesu
Nepali: Yēśūmā viśvāsa garnuhōs
Mongolian: Есүст итгэ (Yesüst itge)
Haitian Creole: kwè nan Jezi
French: croire en Jésus
Finnish: usko Jeesukseen
Welsh: credu yn Iesu
Xhosa: kholwani kuYesu
Bangla: Yīsu biśbāsa
Basque: sinetsi Jesusengan
Filipino: maniwala kay Hesus
Polish: uwierz w Jezusa
Lithuanian: tikėti Jėzumi
Turkish: İsa'ya inan