

TRULY, TRULY
I SAY TO YOU
UNLESS ONE IS
BORN ANEW
HE CANNOT SEE
THE KINGDOM OF GOD

JOHN 3:3



 REFLECTION

“Jesus tells us that his holy disciples will be more courageous and more understanding when they would be, as the Scripture says, endowed with power from on high (Lk 24:49)” St. Cyril of Alexandria.

Even though the disciples were afraid and their faith wavered even after seeing the Risen Jesus many a time, things turned dramatically with the advent of the Spirit upon them. How bold and courageous they became! Aren't we too like the disciples of old? We do believe in the Risen Lord yet lack the conviction and commitment of the Spirit filled disciples. As we traverse this journey from Easter to Pentecost as a Jesus Youth family, let us long and pray for a Spirit filled experience that will transform us into committed missionary disciples of Jesus. Then celebrating Pentecost as a commitment day will have a true meaning for the whole JY movement. In this reflection, I would like to mention three aspects that will orient our focus to a practical living of the new life we have received, where in the kingdom of God is sought, loved, and proclaimed more than anything else.

[i] Pentecost fulfils a promise. The disciples must have felt a deep sense of loss as they watched Jesus ascend to heaven [Acts 1:11]. But through Pentecost Jesus fulfils His promise to His disciples: *“I will ask the Father and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever.”* [Jn. 14:16] The Holy Spirit was His promise and He is our paraclete. That same supreme promise has to be fulfilled today – in you and me! We need him desperately – in our weakness, struggle with sin, to remain humble yet zealous for His Kingdom. With Mary, let us once again fervently wait upon for a fresh visitation of the Spirit.

[ii] Pentecost initiates the use of gifts and charisms. The mission given to us by the Spirit is multi-dimensional – it includes personal holiness, witnessing, evangelising etc. Seven gifts of the Spirit help us to live our lives in Jesus, rooted and built up in him and established in faith (cf Col 2:7). The words rooted, built up, established – all speaks about different aspects of commitment. For this commitment, to bear fruit, we need to open ourselves to the charisms of the Spirit, so that like Philip who fruitfully reached out to the Ethiopian, we too can effectively bring others to Jesus.

[iii] Pentecost launches the global proclamation of the Gospel. This global launching of the Gospel at Pentecost is not only a time of celebration but also a reminder of the mandate that each Christian has. The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost signalled that the great Harvest had begun. Grace which filled the Upper Room in Jerusalem has to reach every corner of the world. *“The Holy Spirit upsets us because it moves us, makes us walk, pushes the Church forward.”* Pope Francis. This Pentecost day, may the Holy Spirit make us walk forward to a total recommitment. And specifically, to these three reasons for our celebration: to embrace the Spirit, to be open to His gifts and charisms and to proclaim His love from the rooftops. This will be a living proof that we are born again in the Spirit and Kingdom of God is our utmost priority.

 SAINT'S QUOTE

“As clear, transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit shines become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others”
– St. Basil the great

 TO DO

Pray this prayer every day with Mother Mary as we start the day.
Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle us the fire of your love. O Lord, during this weeks of Pentecost, give us the grace and strength to go forth from our homes and parishes to bring the Gospel message to the world we encounter each day of our lives. Amen.
Blessed Virgin Mary... Pray for Us. Pope St. John Paul II... Pray for Us.

