

until you have been
CLOTHED
with power from on high

LUKE 24:49

Monthly Reflection:

May 2024

In parents who love to clothe their children with the finest clothes, we have a glimpse of God our Father who loves to clothe His children with His very best. God clothes us in various ways - animal skin to cover our shame, clothing that does not fade or wear out, garments of splendour, praise, and salvation, and rich robes of righteousness. He clothes us with Jesus, with the character of Christ, and as royal priests. Whenever we repent, we are covered with the finest garments. Imagine how radiant and resplendent we are in the attire God places on us! If only we could see ourselves the way our heavenly Father sees us.

When it was time for Jesus to return to the Father, He promised something extraordinary – that we would be clothed with power by the Holy Spirit (Lk 24:49). We celebrate, renew, and fully embrace this most wonderful outpouring of God Himself on us on Pentecost Day. The Holy Spirit is the greatest promise of Jesus and the covering of the Spirit is the most important clothing we wear. It is a clothing of God's power, love, and presence that covers, protects and equips us.

Many of the garments mentioned at the start speak of what God does for us His children as partakers of His grace and life. However, clothing with the power of the Holy Spirit enables us to do the works of Jesus, and even greater things (Jn 14:12). It enables us to transform the world as witnesses of Jesus in the power, authority, and influence of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). We are empowered as witnesses and ambassadors of Christ (2 Cor 5:20).

As Jesus Youth, are we ready to fulfill our calling as ambassadors and witnesses of God's kingdom? The Greek word for witness is the same as for martyr. Witnessing Jesus is a daily martyrdom, a daily dying to self and sin, a daily carrying of the cross, saying no to our wills and yes to God's call.

The clothing of the Holy Spirit is imbued with power (the Greek equivalent is 'dunamis', from which the word dynamite is derived). We see superheroes in comics put on their special clothing before they exercise their powers. For instance, Clark Kent becomes Superman when he dons his blue suit and red cape. The clothing of the Holy Spirit is our permanent superhero suit. We must learn to live, walk, and act in the new clothing we receive at Pentecost. Massive trucks carrying heavy loads are

brought to a stop by the raised hand of a little man in the middle of the road. Why do they stop? Simply because the man wears a police uniform. Let us ponder on the power of our God the Holy Spirit with which God wants to clothe us. Are we seeking to be continually filled with the power and presence of this Spirit? (Eph 5:18) Are we earnestly striving for all the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 14:1) and are we ready to use them in faith at every appropriate opportunity?

The enemy, who is envious of our divine clothing, always strives to rob us of this dynamite covering by enticing us to walk in the flesh instead of the Spirit. The allurements of this world, the lust of the eyes, gratification of the flesh and pride of life may have weakened our total, daily dependence on the power of the Spirit. Pentecost is the time to get rightly and fully clothed again, to commit to live daily in the power of the Holy Spirit, and to get launched into the next level of holiness, authority, and impact that God is calling us to.

How am I preparing for Pentecost? How will I get ready to operate in His power and gifts? How willing, desperate, and eager am I to wait for and seek the clothing, power, and gifts that my Father God has for me?

“Abba, cover our Jesus Youth movement with the clothing and power of Your Spirit, beginning with me.”

Mathew Jacob

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Mathew Jacob lives in Texas, USA with his wife Sara, and is blessed with 4 children and 2 grandchildren. He encountered Christ through the Catholic Charismatic Renewal in Kerala in the late 70s, and has ever since been a passionate missionary, even while holding key positions in the professional world. He has lived in 8 countries, worked in 40 countries across various continents, and always been a strong supporter of the Jesus Youth movement.

