

## **The Holy Spirit who was given to us.– Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 - Pentecost**

***“and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:5***

Beloved in The Lord,

We have a good and loving Father in Heaven who meets all of our needs. He loves His children very much and He gives good gifts to those who trust in Him.

Jesus taught:

***“<sup>9</sup> So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? <sup>12</sup> Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? <sup>13</sup> If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” (Luke 11:9-13).***

Jesus uses very down to earth, simple language, so that we may all understand. He is teaching us to pray, to seek and to knock, and He says that if we do this in faith, then we will receive from the Father that which is good.

Jesus wants us to understand that God loves us very much, and that He wants to give good gifts to His children. He even says that an evil father knows how to give good gifts to his children. Then He says if that is the case, how much more will the Father in Heaven give The Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.

Today is Pentecost Sunday. We celebrate the birth of the Christian Church, which burst into action as The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers. The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to every believer in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is God, and He has come into the world for us.

In order for us to receive the fullness of His blessing, we need to do the three things that Jesus teaches us: pray, seek and knock.

### **1. PRAY**

Jesus said: “ask, and it will be given unto you.” If we ask God The Father, He will give us His Holy Spirit. He will give us absolutely everything essential for us to live life as He intended us to live it. He intends for our lives to reflect Jesus and to bring glory and honour to Him. God is love and our text today tells us that God has poured His love into our hearts through The Holy Spirit.

***“and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.” Romans 5:5***

The Holy Spirit is God’s gift to us. Because He so loves us, God gives us of His Spirit. Before Jesus ascended back to Heaven, He promised the disciple’s that He would not leave them to

be on their own, that He would not leave them as orphaned children. He promised that He would ask the Father to send the Comforter, who will be with them forever. We considered last Sunday, that The Holy Spirit abides in, or dwells within the heart of every believer in Jesus Christ. We also saw, however, that it is important that we get to know Him. This is where prayer comes into the picture. We need to ask God The Holy Spirit, to reveal Jesus presence in our heart and our daily life. We need to learn to bring all things before Him. There is absolutely nothing that God does not know or that He cannot do. Remember He is Omniscient (all knowing); Omnipresent (everywhere); and Omnipotent (all powerful).

James teaches us:

***“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.” (James 1:5)***

It is stated so clearly here: If we need wisdom, all we need to do is ask, knowing that God will give generously. Oh, how we need to cement this truth deep within our hearts and we need to practice it every day. We would avoid so much difficulty, heartache, pain, and sin if we would rely more upon God, and seek His wisdom, before we make any decision. As I already mentioned, He knows all things, and He loves to help us, because He is our Father.

Those of us who are parents, know that we want the best for our children. How many times have we agonised over decisions our children make that get them in trouble, when if they had simply sought and obeyed our advice things would have been different? How much more is this the case with our Heavenly Father?

The Holy Spirit is given the title *“Parakleitos”* which means *“Helper”* or *“Comforter”* or *“Advocate”*.

We need to learn to seek and to rely upon His Godly Counsel. Before we make any decision or do anything we should seek His guidance and His advice. Ask and you shall receive. We need to heed James’ warning though:

***“But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him. <sup>6</sup> But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For that man ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord, <sup>8</sup> being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:5-8)***

So when we ask, we need to do so in faith. We need to remember Jesus promise: Ask and it shall be given unto you.

## 2. SEEK

Secondly we are to seek and then we will find. What are we to seek? We are to seek the face of God, The Truth of God.

We read in Psalm 27:

**<sup>7</sup> Hear, O Lord, when I cry with my voice,  
And be gracious to me and answer me.  
<sup>8</sup> When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You,  
"Your face, O Lord, I shall seek."  
<sup>9</sup> Do not hide Your face from me,  
Do not turn Your servant away in anger;  
You have been my help;  
Do not abandon me nor forsake me,  
O God of my salvation!  
<sup>10</sup> For my father and my mother have forsaken me,  
But the Lord will take me up.  
<sup>11</sup> Teach me Your way, O Lord,  
And lead me in a level path  
Because of my foes." (Psalm 27:7-11)**

If we actively seek the Lord, then He reveals Himself to us in many and various ways. When we read the Bible, we need to read it seeking it's truths. We need to read it with a desire to learn and to know, to reveal the deep things of God. We read in Isaiah:

**<sup>2</sup> "I will go before you and make the rough places smooth;  
I will shatter the doors of bronze and cut through their iron bars.  
<sup>3</sup> "I will give you the treasures of darkness  
And hidden wealth of secret places,  
So that you may know that it is I,  
The Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. " (Is.45:2-3)**

God reveals His secrets to those who seek Him with all their heart; to those who spend time with Him, in His Word; who meditate upon His Word day and night. If you just skim over His Word then you will miss out on a lot of revelation and blessing that comes with it. We read in Psalm 25:

**"The secret of the Lord is for those who fear Him,  
And He will make them know His covenant." (vs.14)**

When we seek God and we fear Him with a Godly fear, then He reveals us many secrets and gives us understanding about Himself. Oh, what a blessing that is. Paul wrote:  
**"Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! <sup>34</sup> For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor? <sup>35</sup> Or who has first given to Him that it might be paid back to him again? <sup>36</sup> For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen." (Romans 11:33-36)**

When we seek and pray then we draw from the wells of God's richness.

### 3. KNOCK

Finally, Jesus also said that if we knock, the door will be opened to us. God wants us to knock at His door. We knock at a door because we want someone to open it for us. God wants us to knock at His door, so that He can open it for us. Through Jesus God opens the door and we come into fellowship with Him.

The Church that was born on Pentecost Sunday was on fire for God and it was blessed because it trusted and obeyed the Holy Spirit.

They heeded Jesus teaching and they daily asked, sought, and knocked and they received.

Let us do the same. May we live in faith and walk in The Spirit. May we allow God's Holy Spirit to so fill us day by day that we overflow with the love of Jesus.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us. Let us live in His guidance and His power.

Amen.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.