

Pentecost

2020



*The Acts of
the Holy Spirit.*

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

Dear brothers and sisters, dear children;

Pentecost Sunday is fast approaching! Of all the gifts given to mankind by God, there is none greater than the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit has many functions, roles, and activities and the Bible clearly explains who the Holy Spirit is and what role He can play in our lives.

On the night before our Lord Jesus Christ was crucified Jesus announced his departure. Confused and filled with grief, the disciples struggled to comprehend their Saviour's words. Christ chose this pivotal moment to prepare His beloved disciples for the coming **Holy Spirit**. *"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you."* (John 16:7)

Jesus told His disciples that His absence was a good thing and said it was best that He leave the world and not be physically present. The believer is better off with the Holy Spirit than with the physical, bodily presence of Christ. Why? How could this be? Since Jesus departed we now have an Intercessor before the throne of God and we now have the presence of the Holy Spirit with us at all times. Jesus in human body could only be in one place at a time but the Holy Spirit, our Comforter, is able to be with all believers at all times, *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"* (John 14:16) Yes, Jesus, assured his disciples that they will never be alone.

Dear brothers and sisters we are experiencing very difficult and uncertain times because of the Corona pandemic. The days/weeks/months and even years ahead will be extremely challenging for all of us. However, with a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit in our lives, we can realize that we are never alone. The Holy Spirit is with us and quite active in our lives in several powerful ways. Through these Pentecost meditations, the bishops want to encourage and show us how the Holy Spirit, our Helper and Comforter, takes action in our lives.

Enjoy the meditations. Have a blessed Pentecost Week and stay safe.

Rodger G Ruiters (bishop)
[On behalf of the bishops]

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PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY ONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT LIVES IN US

Ezekiel 36:26-27, John 14:16-17, Ephesians 1:13, 1 Corinthians 3:16 Romans 8:11

Dear brothers and sisters: In John 14:16-17, Jesus is talking to his disciples, and He says, “*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. ...you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*” Jesus promised that when He left, His Spirit would be sent to live inside of Christians.

If we are Christians, then the Bible calls us God’s temple because “*God’s Spirit dwells in us*” (1 Corinthians 3:16). As children of God we *literally* possess the Spirit of God inside of us. 1 Corinthians 3:16 says, “*Do you not know your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.*” Andrew Murray, in his book *The Spirit of Christ*, elaborated on this in a way that is very helpful to understand. He said in the Jewish temple there were three courts: the outer court, the inner court, and the Holy of holies.

Murray described how our bodies are like the outer court. The inner court is like our mind, our will and our emotions. But inside of us is the Holy of holies where the Spirit of God dwells. So inside us is the Holy of holies. Verse 17 of that chapter says, “The temple of God is holy, and that temple is what we are.” That will help our self-image to know the Holy of holies is in us.

The Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we can know who Jesus is and know how to follow Him. The Holy Spirit always points us to Christ. Following Jesus is not always easy. Life is not always easy; the good news is that the Holy Spirit gives us the power to follow Jesus. Once we start a personal relationship with Jesus, the Holy Spirit ignites in us a desire to know Him and become more like Him. As our relationship grows and we learn who we are in Christ, the Spirit empowers us to live a life that reflects Jesus, no matter the difficulties we face.

Dear brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit’s powerful indwelling is an amazing gift we should never take lightly. Jesus said, the Spirit will be with us forever. Therefore as children of God we can have confidence that He will never leave us or let us down as we choose to follow Him all our days. In Ezekiel 36:26-27, the Lord says, “*I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my ways.*” With the same Holy Spirit that has raised Jesus Christ from the dead now living inside of us, we can make a huge difference in the way we live and impact other people’s lives and release His dunamis power to positively affect our generation! **Dunamis** is the Holy Spirit’s miraculous power that is now within us. But unless we activate it, it will simply lie dormant within us and no one will get any of the benefits of its purposes. May the light of the Holy Spirit always burn brightly in us. Amen

Prayer: *Father, thank You for filling me with Your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, I praise You because You are holy, and I thank You for dwelling in my heart. Thank You for working in my life. Dear Holy Spirit, never let me try to limit You to my own capacity. In Jesus name. Amen*

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY TWO: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US POWER.

Acts 1:8, 2Tm 1:7 Rom 8:37, 1John 5:4, Acts 2:39, 1Thes:1:5, 1Cor:2:4-5, 2Cor:2:14

Acts 1: 8: ***“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”***

The first apostles had forsaken everything to follow Jesus. But they still had to wait until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit before they could go out and fulfil their God-ordained ministry. Jesus Himself needed to be anointed with the Holy Spirit and power before He could begin His public ministry (Acts 10:38). If even He needed this anointing, how much more we need it.

Jesus told His apostles to wait in Jerusalem until they were **'clothed with power'** (Luke. 24:49). And just before He ascended up to heaven, He told them again that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they would 'receive power' (Acts 1:8). On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on them. And those cowardly and faint-hearted men were immediately **transformed into bold, fiery witnesses for the Lord** (Acts 2:1-4). **What they received was exactly what Jesus had told them that they would receive - power.** What we need in order to live the Christian life is not just a guideline and doctrine but the power of God in our life. *The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us power for godliness as well as power for service.*

The Holy Spirit is pictured in the New Testament as a river flowing from the throne of God and falling to earth (Rev. 22:1; Acts 2:33). To be baptized in the Holy Spirit is to be *immersed under this waterfall*. Jesus said that all those who thirsted could come to Him and receive the Holy Spirit so that rivers of living water could flow out from their innermost being (John 7:37). To have rivers of blessing flowing out from us to all who come in touch with us is the will of God for our lives. *During this time of the national lockdown, we are called to be rivers of blessings by praying for those who are at the frontline of combating the Covid-19 disease, and to be a source of encouragement for those who have succumbed to the disease, and through our prayers to comfort those who have lost loved ones. But, most of all, we can be a source of blessing to others by looking after ourselves and practice safe hygiene, and by keeping social distance.*

The first step towards this is to acknowledge our need. Having taken that first step, we can then trust God to grant us what we ask for. All we need in order to be baptized in the Holy Spirit are thirst, an intense desire, born out of a great longing to glorify God, and faith, the absolute confidence that God will give us what He has promised. ***Let us ask then, with thirst and with faith, for this power, and God will not deny us our request.***

The Holy Spirit is likened to the wind in the Scriptures; and the wind blows in different ways at different times. "So is everyone who is born of the Spirit", Jesus said (John 3:8). Each believer's experience will therefore be different in the manner in which we come to experience baptism in the Holy Spirit. The inner, spiritual gift and equipping with power however, is what really matters. God gives us 'gifts of power' through the Spirit *so that we can serve Him effectively in building up the church as the body of Christ*. He is the One however who determines which gift each of us should have.

Prophecy, the ability to preach powerfully to challenge, encourage and comfort, is the most useful of these gifts (1 Cor. 14:1-5). There are also gifts of serving, teaching, healing, exhorting, giving money, and leadership (Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:8-10). The ability to speak in unknown languages, or 'the gift of tongues', is another gift that God gives, to enable us to pray and praise Him, without the limitations of our mind and our mother-tongue.

If you have not been baptized in the Spirit, seek God and claim your birthright. Ask Him also to give you an assurance of this. *"If you being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him..... You do not have because you do not ask"* (Luke 11:13; James 4:2). Let us then cry out to God with all our hearts, and say like Jacob said to God at **Peniel**, *"I will not let You go until You bless Me"* (Gen. 32:26).

There is no partiality with God. What He has done for others He will do for you. Even today, He rewards those who diligently seek Him (Heb. 11:6). He is more than eager to give the Holy Spirit in His fullness to all who desire to glorify Him.

Prayer

Gracious Lord, we confess that without you we can do nothing, and that true life is to be found in you alone. We have come to realize in this time where we are battling a giant called the Corona virus that we need power from on high to fight the disease, and not to lose hope and doubt in our faith. We pray that you descend with Your Holy Spirit on us, Your Church, and that we will be clothed with Your amazing power. In the Name of Jesus we pray this. Amen.

The name Peniel means Face Of God and is of Hebrew origin. ... In the Hebrew Bible, Penuel/Peniel is a place name near Succoth on the east side of the Jordan river and north of the river Jabbok.

Peniel

(Face of God)



PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY THREE: THE HOLY SPIRIT INTERCEDES AND HELPS US PRAY....

Psalm 6:6, John 16:13-15, Lk 22:44; Rom 7:18-25, Rom 8:13, Rom 8:26 and 2 Cor 5:1-4

In Chapter 8 of his letter to the Romans, Paul really goes into fine detail in terms of how the Third Person of the Trinity namely: *THE HOLY SPIRIT* operates in our lives. Better still, Paul explains how *THE HOLY SPIRIT* enables us to achieve those things we otherwise and ordinarily would not be able to achieve especially for our spiritual lives. Put differently, *THE HOLY SPIRIT* helps us to perform unthinkable duties and to reach the impossible heights of spiritual performance, so to speak. This, Paul explains in contrast to the restrictions and limitations of the *FLESH*. In much simpler words, the Holy Spirit is *POWERFUL* while the *FLESH* is weak, as far as Paul is concerned.

One such 'impossible height, that Paul says the *HOLY SPIRIT* enables us, as Believers, to reach is our ability to engage in meaningful and sound communication with God through prayer. To this end, Paul writes: ²⁶ **We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.** ²⁷ **And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. (Romans 8:26).**

Contrary to popular belief that PRAYER is a fairly easy task to undertake however it is not, according to Pauline theology, so to speak. Quite to the contrary, it is a mammoth task probably because the whole exercise involves communication by errant and fallible human beings like us with a holy and everlasting God like ours. To Paul, this kind of inability to speak freely to God is a sign of weakness, spiritually speaking. After all, we are human beings who are far from being perfect in being able to crack the art, as it were, of engaging God in prayer. When such deficiencies are laid bare from our side and we are not able to pray to God for whatever reason, then THE HOLY SPIRIT steps in to assist us by actually praying to God on our behalf. The word used in this regard is: INTERCEDE. The Bible says: **When we are weak, and do not know exactly how we should pray, God Himself (through the Holy Spirit) helps by making intercession for us.**

But how is it possible that a Believer would find it difficult to talk to a loving God like ours through prayer? Indeed, how is it possible that one is not able to simply say what is on their hearts to our caring Father like God to whom we shout *Abba, Father* to quote Paul? The answer to this question perhaps lies in what one Biblical commentator had to say about this matter, namely that it is not the proper matter of prayer that believers are at so much loss about but to ask for the right things is their actual difficulty. Simply put, I am sure all of us have an endless list of things to ask from God in

prayer especially for our physical needs but to ask for the right things in God's sight could be a real problem. For our prayers we might therefore not be able to ask for those things that are critical for our survival as opposed to those that are 'nice-to-have'. Discernment in prayer therefore becomes important. For errant human beings like ourselves it can be a tall order but then again Paul says THE HOLY SPIRIT is there to rescue us in this regard.

***Prayer:** Heavenly Father, thank you for all the wonder works of your Holy Spirit as explained so clearly by your servant, Paul in his letter to the Romans. Our prayer lives are now much easier to lead as the Holy Spirit is there to guide us. Come down now Holy Spirit and take control of our prayer lives and transform us to be real prayer warriors in your sight. AMEN.*

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY FOUR: THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES AND REMINDS CHRISTIANS OF WHAT CHRIST SAID.

Nehemiah 9:20, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:13-14, Acts 16:6-7, Acts 13:2, Romans 8:14

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Young People, Children

Learning, teaching, repeating, reminding are biblical terms which are well-known to our learners and students during this time of lockdown. For those of us who are still studying, learning in a school, college, university or any other institution of learning, these words are part of our daily routine. And even if the Corona virus has complicated these processes, the necessity to do it will not go away.

We must spend endless time trying to get to know stuff, remember it, be able to speak or write about it again and apply it. Some of us have sweet memories of it while others have realised that it is not that easy all the time. Yet all of us realise and know the importance of gaining knowledge to move forward in life or become the person you want or rather ought to be as directed by God.

...to become the person that you want or ought to be... This process has much more to do than only with going to a school, college, university. While learning is a spiritual process, learning to become the person you ought to be has much more to do with God's plan for your life.

Yes, and so God has instilled in life a process of ensuring that we will get to know the spiritual processes that are important for us to know, to grow and to remain in that growth process. God the Father taught and ensured that his followers know Him and his expectations for life. We see this in the Creation story, in giving us commandments to guide our lives, in giving us prophets to help us follow Him. As Christians we believe that God has a specialised ministry to do that. He has put his Holy Spirit in charge of this process to keep us informed and to keep on reminding us of our spiritual goals in life as taught by Jesus. The leaders and people of the Old Testament knew this. (Neh. 9:20)

It then seems as if this function became more important in the world of Jesus and the planting of the Church in the New Testament. One of Jesus' main aims was to teach about what He was sent to come and do and correct through teaching what was wrong in life. (Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5-7) But it did not end there. To reach each person God not only spoke through the person of Jesus or left his Word for us in the Holy Scriptures but more so through his Spirit that is alive and active in us.

And so, Jesus said: I will give you a personal Guide who will be there with you do help you, to guide you, to remind you whenever it is necessary in life.

Isn't that wonderful? You have a personal Guide alive and actively accompanying you in life, commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ to be with you. (John 14v26) Yes, we know, life's issues can be complicated, and we seemingly forget some rules, and so we need this. Let us thank the Lord for it!

Prayer: *Dear Lord, there are times in my life where I just do not know or cannot get direction, and then I feel comforted by the fact that your Spirit is with me all the time. May your Spirit never leave me. Amen.*

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY FIVE: THE HOLY SPIRIT SANCTIFIES AND HELPS US TO OBEY GOD'S WORD

Text: *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will place My spirit within you and cause you to follow My statutes and carefully observe my ordinances."* Ezekiel 36: 26, 27

It is in the interest of every follower of Jesus Christ to have a continuous, close relationship with the Holy Spirit. In today's theme you and I are encouraged to pray earnestly and to seek the presence of the Holy Spirit in all our actions, in all our words and in our relationships. God Almighty is always ready to grant us the gift of the Holy Spirit and its special influence in all our dealings in society.

Our text in Ezekiel chapter 36 is a prophecy about the restoration of the people of Israel. It speaks about a new beginning for God's elected, after they had profaned the Holy Name of God Almighty. The new beginning starts with God's readiness to forgive a sinful nation, and to remove their transgressions through sanctification, and give them a new heart with a new desire to be obedient to God's will... *"I will give you a new heart and a new spirit within you...I will place my spirit within you and cause you to follow my statutes..."*

Dear brother and sister, the season of Pentecost is a time for perseverance in prayer, pleading to God to help us to become stronger in our discipleship, in our obedience, and to submit completely to His will.

You and I are called to prayer today and to humble ourselves before God. We should seek God's will daily in all our planning and work. God's will should always be in the forefront of our thoughts. Before we speak or act or respond to any call, we should ask the Holy Spirit for guidance.

Finally, The Holy Spirit is God's very special gift to us. We do not earn it, we cannot earn it! We can only receive it in all humility as a sinner, completely dependent on God's grace.

And in the process of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, we are humbled, having only one passion, namely, to seek God's will throughout the day and night, every day of our lives.

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You give it to us without us having earned it. Your love for us is so great. It comes to us daily through Jesus Christ Your Son, who gave His Life, so that we may be heirs in your great Kingdom. We have one desire, to serve you and to be obedient to your will day by day. Let your will be done. Amen

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY SIX: THE HOLY SPIRIT HELPS CHRISTIANS KILL SIN AND CONVICTS THE WORLD OF GUILT IN REGARD TO SIN.

John 16:7-8, Romans 8:12-13

Dear reader, brothers and sisters, The world is a sinful place, and one of the Holy Spirit's tasks is to convict the world of its sin. In [John 16:8](#), Jesus promised to send the [Holy Spirit](#): "*When [the Spirit] comes, he will convict the world concerning sin*". The word convict means "to convince or to reprove." No amount of preaching, pleading, or pointing of fingers will bring about the conviction of sin, unless the Holy Spirit is at work in the sinner's heart. It is the Spirit's job to convict.

To be convicted is to feel the absolute [dreadfulness of sin](#). This happens when we've seen God's beauty, His purity and holiness, and when we recognize that sin cannot dwell with Him ([Psalm 5:4](#)). When Isaiah stood in the presence of God, he was immediately overwhelmed by his own sinfulness: "*Woe to me! . . . I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty*" ([Isaiah 6:5](#)).

We are convicted when we become mindful of how much our sin dishonors God. When David was convicted by the Holy Spirit, he cried out, "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" ([Psalm 51:4](#)). David saw his sin primarily as an affront to a holy God.

Dear reader, brothers and sisters: The Holy Spirit not only convicts people of sin, but He also brings them to repentance ([Acts 17:30](#); [Luke 13:5](#)). The convicting power of the Holy Spirit opens our eyes to our sin and opens our hearts to receive His grace ([Ephesians 2:8](#)). We praise the Lord for the conviction of sin. Without it, there could be no salvation.

Jesus went on to explain: "he will convict the world concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; [John 16:9–11](#). So the most basic sin of which the world is guilty is unbelief, a refusal to trust in

Jesus. Unbelief is the opposite of belief, or faith. "Belief," in the Bible means to, "have faith." it includes a full surrender to God. To put my faith in God through Jesus Christ means that I rest my whole self upon Him. It really means unconditional surrender. Faith means that I put my whole self in His hand for HIS WILL. In short, faith means I give MYSELF to God.

The appropriate time is now, under these trying circumstances of the Covid-19 virus, to do a deep, soul searching introspection and reflection about our faith in God Almighty. If we have faith in God and full trust in Our Lord Jesus Christ, we can overcome any adversity and we will conquer the Corona-virus pandemic! *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, **believe** that you have received it, and it will be yours. (Mark 11:24)*

Amen. God bless. Stay safe.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, I completely surrender all my life to You! I adore You, for You are mighty and all-powerful, worthy of all my praise. Holy Spirit, Search my heart and mind of all inequities. Strip me of all my unrighteousness, as I to come to You as I am. Lord Jesus, I surrender all to thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all. Amen

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY SEVEN: THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US SPIRITUAL GIFTS

1 Cor. 12: 4-12; Eph. 4: 12-13

SUB-THEME: SPIRITUAL GIFTS EDIFY CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Dear brothers, sisters and children, be blessed with grace and peace from the Trinity this Pentecost.

1. For three years – Jesus’ ministry on earth was authenticated by physical presence. He was confined to one place at a given time. Based in the North, South would forgo the Christo-centric influence and availability.
 - 1.1 John 14:16 “the Father will give you another comforter...and he will never leave you. ‘No, I will not abandon you or leave you as orphans – I will come to you.” John 14:18.
 - 1.2 Discourse in Acts 1: 48-49 ‘so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high’. “Be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth”. Acts 1:8
 - 1.3 #Covid19; lockdown regulations, curfew, meetings put on hold, economy threatened, becoming fragile in spirituality; by the power and movement of the Holy spirit; spiritual gifts will grant the church clean bill of spirituality. Stability will be the church’s gift.
 - 1.4 During lent; Holy Spirit through spirit filled servants blessed us not to be lonely, not to be orphans by facilitating passion narrative meditations for believers.

2. Spiritual gifts

- We implore the divine power to bestow upon our church the gifts of the spirit.

2.1 1 Cor. 12: 4-12

- The son returned to the Father via the cross; the resurrection, and the ascension.
- To be a spirit – dependent church, we acknowledge Christ as the Author, Source and Director of power for the life-long process of spiritual growth.

2.2 Ephesians 4:7 “Each one of us has received a special gift in proportion to what Christ has given for lively spirituality.

#For active church development (growth) all members are called to manifest these gifts and exhibit live, vibrant witness for the unity of the church.

-Spiritual gifts emanate from grace (charisma) to cement fellowship.

-Spiritual gifts...are the special abilities offered to members for ministry and service...(diakonia). God is the divine source of all spiritual gifts.

2.3 Spiritual gifts according to Paul, selection for Corinthians

1 Cor. 12:1 ...'special abilities the Holy Spirit gives to each of you'

Caution!... “now you are meeting people who claim to speak messages from the spirit of God.” (1 Cor. 12:3).

'How do you know if they are not fakes?' One confessing Jesus as Lord is surely helped by the Holy Spirit”.

2.4 ...1 Cor. 12:4-10.

Addressing power relationships in society, the Christian community struggling with various internal tensions which threaten its unity and result in chaos. God is the God of order.

2.5 Special abilities originate from the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:4)

- Different kinds of service to God...but it is the same Lord we are serving (diakonia), to promote welfare and tolerance.
- Many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his to be a closely knit unit.
- The Holy Spirit displays God’s power through each of us as a means of helping the entire church to live in Unity. Ps 133:1
 - Giving wise advice – promoting Kingdom Values.
 - Speaking in knowledge – for sound Administration
 - Special faith – to face and overcome challenges.
 - Power to heal the sick...Jesus as a physician
 - Power of doing miracles...Overpowering Demons
 - Power of prophesy and preach with inspiration...not personal message or Vision.
 - Power to know whether evil spirits are speaking through those who claim to be giving God’s messages...and to be told to admonish them.
- It is the same and only Holy Spirit who gives all these gifts and powers, deciding which each one of us should have.

Prayer: *Holy Spirit guide us; nurture us, empower us in our witnesses to contribute to the growth of your church. Help us to use our gifts for the edification of your Church; the body of Christ not for own commendation. Amen.*

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY EIGHT: THE HOLY SPIRIT SPEAKS, HEARS AND HAS FEELINGS

Readings: **Acts 13:2, Hebrews 3:7-9, John 16:13, Romans 8:26, 1 Corinthians 2:13 and Revelations 3:7**

According to the confession of the Catholic church in the Apostle's Creed we believe in the Triune Godhead; God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit the Comforter. Unique in this confession is the unity of the three Persons evident [John 16:13-15] this means there is in Trinity a unity of purpose. Already in the Old Testament we can observe that during creation the Holy Spirit was active; hovering over the waters [Genesis 1:2]. In the book of Acts the Holy Spirit directs the apostles whom to elect so that the Gospel could be proclaimed in the gentile world. When the Holy Spirit was poured over at Pentecost the disciples were transformed, empowered and equipped to carry the message of Salvation. As we prepare ourselves for the celebration of Pentecost we are reminded that the Holy Spirit does give power when the Gospel is proclaimed. We see this especially in St Peter's message to the people in Jerusalem after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:14ff). As we believe in the Triune God we are therefore assured that the Holy Spirit is present. When God through His word speaks to us. He is the God who hears our cries and sees our agonies. The coming of Jesus Christ into the world is concrete evidence that our God does hear our cries. As we prepare these meditations our country and the whole world is being ravaged by corona virus (Covid-19).

Christians all over the world are holding around the clock intercessions, Although we could not celebrate Good Friday and Easter services in our various congregations, we have in our families participated in prayer. Praying to our God to console and comfort the bereaved families. I have no doubt in my mind that God does see and hears our supplication. There is no reason why we should not believe that He will come, He does come to our rescue. We are encouraged to continue to trust Him, we dare not loose hope and faith. We should fear Him more than we fear this Covid-19 as it will never separate us from His love. Who knows, it could be that... (I know this could be controversial to some), our God through crisis in our lives 'Covid-19 is no exception' is speaking to us, unfortunately during the lock-down as the families have to be together, gender based violence and rape erupted causing more pain for the victims. The question is do we have ears to hear what God says to us? Gracious Triune God enable us to hear. Inspire us to obey your command to love one another.

Prayer:

Triune God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit we give thanks to you for you are the God who speaks to us in each and every moment through your Word as we share it with many people. Thank you for hearing our cries and agonies for feeling and sharing our pain. Strengthen our faith, hope and trust in You in spite of bitter experiences we encounter in our lives. Through Jesus our Lord and Saviour we pray. Amen.

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY NINE: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS, SENDS PEOPLE TO WORK AND APPOINTS THEM TO OFFICE.

Acts 13:2-4, Acts 20:28, Rev 22:17

Dear Sisters and Brothers

Big decisions, for example – what career to follow, what work offer to accept, who to marry or where to set up home? – are the ones that bring many anxieties because it produces the soul-searching question: Are we prepared and where can we find help?

The early church in our text in Acts 13 had such an important decision before them. The Good News of Christ must reach the ends of the earth (see Acts 1: 8). ‘The whole earth and all who live in it belongs to the Lord.’(Psalm 24:1): But what does it help if the world is not reached? How can they know the Good News if they don’t hear it? And how can they hear if there’s no one to tell them

9Rom. 10: 14, 15) They needed God’s guidance. Our passage says: “While they(i.e. the church at Antioch) were ministering and fasting - their **actions** and **attitude**(verse 2) - the Holy Spirit spoke: “*Set Barnabas and Saul apart for me to do the work to which I have called them.*” As they fasted they forgot about their own needs, desires and were completely open to God’s direction, design and dictates. But was it by this fasting and praying and laying on of hands, that they were qualified for this work? No, God had already called them. And He who called them also qualified them. How can we today still receive the Spirit’s call? *Firstly*, by desiring it; *secondly*, earnestly seeking it; *thirdly*, waiting upon it and *lastly*, expecting it. The congregation waited upon the Lord’s direction by **praying and fasting**. They immediately obeyed, because it was God himself calling. “They sent them away.” and: “They went...”(verse 4). This 1st Mission journey of Paul and Barnabas was actualized by their **willingness** and, equally important, the **participation** of the congregation.

The great need in all lines of Christian work to-day is men and women whom the Holy Spirit calls and sends forth. Let us pray for the Spirit to make us vigilant and obedient to His calling like Samuel: “*Speak Lord, your servant is listening.*”(1 Sam. 3: 9) and Isaiah “*Here am I, send me.*”(Isa.6: 8) and be prepared to participate in the ministry and give support to those who have the God-given responsibility to pastor the people of God like a shepherd, inside and outside the church-building, in devotedness and their exemplary life. Therefore Paul urged the elders of Ephesus on his last visit to them: “*Keep guard over yourselves and over all the flock*” (*take care of all the flock*) because they belong to God(Acts 20: 28).

It is true that we live in a world with an ardent thirst for the Living water. The Spirit is still today calling each one to come and freely receive it (Rev. 22: 17). Therefore the church as the bride cannot otherwise echo that invitation – not only in critical moments – for the Good News of Salvation in Christ is meant for everyone everywhere.

Covid-19 has highlighted the stark reality of how we live. May we as church continue our efforts, amid the present and post lockdown measures, to educate and help alleviate the desperate need and suffering, bodily and spiritually, of all the people - the young and the elderly to help avert the rapid spread of the corona virus and even ministering via diverse and easily accessible means.

Dignity calls for duty. Let us pray the Holy Spirit to bless and strengthen us as we diligently serve Him.

PRAYER:

Faithful God, keep us true to the covenant you have made with us, and to the Christian fellowship into which you have called us. Holy Spirit, help us to show our faithfulness each day in love and service. This we ask in the Name above all names, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PENTECOST MEDITATIONS 2020

OVERALL THEME: THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

DAY TEN: PRAISE, PRAYER AND WORSHIP

If My people who are called by My Name humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I hear from heaven and I will forgive their sins and will heal their land. 2 Chronicles 7: 14

INTRODUCTION: Dear brothers and sisters, Praise and worship is one of the most **powerful weapons** God has given us against the enemy, and the power of prayer should not be underestimated. When we worship God, even demons tremble and yokes begin to be broken. Jesus taught us, "...I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20) The Bible urges us, "And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints" (Ephesians 6:18).

Dear brothers and sisters, let us unite in prayer. Our God is ready to listen. Have a blessed Pentecostal Prayer Session.

Items for the Service - suggestions

- Praise and worship Songs/Hymns during the service:
 - 1) Hy's die Een wat ek liefhet...;
 - 2) He's got the whole world in his hands;
 - 3) Whisper a prayer in the morning;
 - 4) Hymn 825, 1-2 Jesus day by day...;
 - 5) Hymn 823, 1-2 Is God my strong salvation...;

- 6) Reach out and touch the Lord...;
 - 7) Kumbaya my Lord;
 - 8) Hymn 646,1-3 Gaan vlug met jou smarte...;
 - 9) Hymn 679,1-2 Voorwaarts God se stryders...;
 - 10) What a mighty God we serve...;
 - 11) Amazing grace...
 - 12) 457, 1-2 Bly wakker vrome vriende...
 - 13) Siyakudumisa, siyakudumisa....
 - 14) Somandla Uzuyigcine impilo yami...
 - 15) Ungu Thixo onenceba engazang' ipele...
 - 16) Amaculo 154:1-2 Nkosi lonk' ilizwi lako...
 - 17) Hymn 164: 1-3 Umi ngasemnyango, Yesu...
 - 18) Hymn 232: 1-3 Nkosi yam ubundithanda,
 - 19) Hymn 287:1-4 Yesu, Nkosi yam....
 - 20) Hymn 413:1-6 Vukani! Nina zimvo zam....
- Daily Watchwords
 - Scripture Reading: 2 Chronicles 7:14, Acts 2: 42-47
 - Short message [5min] by minister/leader on 2 Chronicles 7:14

PRAYER POINTS

[FOCUS ON CORONA PANDEMIC/ COVID 19 VIRUS]

- For the sick and infected: Ask God to heal and help. Contain the spread of infection.
- For frontline health care workers: Thanks for obeying their vocational call to serve us. Pray God to bless and protect them.
- For our vulnerable people: Elderly, poor, homeless...
- For the young, healthy and the strong: Ask God to give them the necessary caution to keep them from unwittingly spreading this disease.
- For our governments: God, help our elected officials as they take the necessary decisions, set up and allocate the necessary resources for combating this pandemic. Help them to provide more tests.
- For our scientific community, leading the charge to understand the disease and communicate its gravity: God, give them knowledge and wisdom.
- For the media, committed to providing up-to-date information: God, help them to communicate with appropriate seriousness without causing panic.
- For those with mental health challenges who feel isolated, anxious, and helpless: God, provide them with every necessary support.
- For the homeless, unable to practice the protocols of social distancing in the shelter system: Protect them from the disease and provide isolation shelters in every city.

- For workers in a variety of industries facing layoffs and financial hardship: God, keep them from panic, and inspire your church to generously support them.
- For business leaders making difficult decisions that affect the lives of their employees: God, give these women and men wisdom, and help them to lead self-sacrificially.
- For pastors and church leaders: For guidance to be creative and adapt to these unusual circumstances.
- For our schools, teachers, lecturers; college and university students where difficult decisions need to be taken on behalf of our children's futures. For Christians in every neighbourhood, community, and cities: Ask the Holy Spirit to inspire us to pray, to give, to love, to serve, and to proclaim the gospel, that the name of Jesus Christ might be glorified around the world.



Thank you. God bless Stay safe.

Dankie, God seën, bly veilig.

Enkosi. uThixo akysikelele. Bahlale bekhuselekile.