



Scripture Nugget – The first instalment of our glorious eternal inheritance

In Him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of His glory (Ephesians 1:13-14).

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth is our internal teacher of truth and helps us understand the holy truths of our faith as taught to us by Christ. *The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in My Name - He will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you (John 14:26).* The Holy Spirit will not be teaching us new truths but will remind us and help us understand the truths that Christ taught us (cf. John 16:14-15). Without the Holy Spirit, we may look but not see, hear but not understand (cf. Matthew 13:13). The reason the world does not believe in God is because it is closed to the Holy Spirit. For instance, we need the Holy Spirit to understand the three important things Jesus mentioned on this occasion to His disciples: "sin", "righteousness" and "condemnation" (cf. John 16:8-11). Without the Holy Spirit the world cannot understand that sin is all the things that offend God including unbelief in Christ, that righteousness is not from man but only from God, and that eternal condemnation exists and is mandated by the divine justice of God.

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God (Romans 8:14). We need the Holy Spirit to lead us walk in fidelity to God's commandments because our "flesh" or sinful nature, due to the effects of Original Sin, tends to lead us to do evil, contrary to the holy desires of the Holy Spirit Who is given to us for our sanctification. Thus, present in us are these two forces which are constantly struggling against each other so that we are not completely free to carry out our good intentions. Even St Paul lamented that he kept doing things which he did not want to do, and failed to do the things he wanted to do (cf. Romans 7:15). The Holy Spirit, our Sanctifier empowers us to overcome temptations by providing us the graces that Christ has merited for us through His Passion. *For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control (2 Timothy 1:7).* God works in us through His Spirit present in us, given to us in Baptism and Confirmation. After Christ's baptism, the Holy Spirit prepared Him for public ministry by leading Him into the desert. After fasting in the desert and overcoming the temptation by Satan, Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit (cf. Luke 4:14). It was only then that Jesus began His public ministry. We need the Holy Spirit in order to carry out to perfection the divine will of God.

Conversation with Jesus: Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the first instalment of our glorious eternal inheritance. The work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify You, to testify to You, to teach us Your truths and to sanctify us by Your graces. All the truths of our faith are bounded up in Your Person, the Living, Eternal Truth (cf. Colossians 2:3). Lord, overflow us with the fullness of Your Spirit so that we are empowered to glorify You and to testify to You by walking steadfastly on the path of truth in allegiance to God's will and commandments. Mary, Mother of Salvation, pray for me. Thank You, Jesus. Praise You, Jesus.