

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to Luke (*Luke 24:49*)

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection – Wait for the power from on high

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that it was better that He returned to God His Father so that He can send the Holy Spirit. Otherwise the Holy Spirit cannot come. This is the divine order of things: Christ had to die, ascend to heaven, then the Holy Spirit would come. *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” (*Acts 1:8*). Only through the power of the Holy Spirit can the disciples be effective missionaries of Jesus to spread the Good News of Christ’s promise of eternal life through the acceptance of His immense sacrifice on Calvary in atonement for our sins. The Holy Spirit transformed the simple and ignorant apostles of Christ into His powerful missionaries. After the first Pentecost three thousand were baptised after St. Peter’s first sermon (cf. *Acts 2:41*). A simple fisherman was able to deliver a powerful sermon to move hardened hearts to accept Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour.

The Holy Spirit gives glory to Jesus. *He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you* (*John 16:14*). The Holy Spirit witnesses to Jesus and continues the work of Jesus. While Jesus was on earth as Jesus of Nazareth, He was limited by His physical body. However, after His ascension into Heaven, Jesus works through the power of His Spirit, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach us the truth by reminding and teaching us what Jesus has taught when He was on earth. There will be no new doctrine but the Holy Spirit will only teach us what He receives from Jesus (cf. *John 16:13-14*, *John 14:26*).

The Holy Spirit is our sanctifier through His graces, gifts and virtues. *When He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment* (*John 16:8*). It is the Holy Spirit working in our hearts through His graces that convicts us of our sins, enlightens us on the effects of sin, God’s justice, truth of the existence of hell and the righteousness of Jesus Christ which justifies repentant sinners in the eyes of God, and which is now available to all sinners who embrace Jesus as their personal Lord and Saviour. Thus, the Holy Spirit leads us into the eternal truths of God that no amount of human intelligence can arrive at. We cooperate with the workings of the Holy Spirit when we put God above all in our daily lives, and strive to carry out His commands of love in every aspect of our daily lives.

The Holy Spirit is the deposit guaranteeing our heavenly inheritance (2 Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:14). It is the Holy Spirit that will make us holy and prepare us for our heavenly home with God the Father. At our Baptism we were given the Holy Spirit who starts His work of sanctification in our souls. We grieve the Holy Spirit when we close our hearts to Him through our pride, disorderly self love, disinclination to seek the things of God, attachment to earthly things, pleasures and money, and through our unrepented sins. He is handicapped when we pursue our own agenda instead of trying to discern what God wills for us and having the fidelity in carrying it out. However, once we embrace God’s will with sincerity and holy boldness, the Holy Spirit can work more fully in us, and we will be transformed into Christ’s image with ever-increasing glory. Then, though on earth, we will be close to heavenly bliss as we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ for us (cf. *Ephesians 3:18*). Christ is the source of our heavenly joy, He is our heavenly reward.

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, thank You for the gift of Your Spirit, the Holy Spirit. Before You ascended into heaven, You asked the disciples to wait for the Gift. Waiting on God is a virtue You would like us to develop as it is also a time of preparation of our hearts for a deeper infilling of Your Spirit. Bestow upon us poor sinners the grace of perfect contrition for our sins. May we never trivialise sin and tolerate the presence of it in our souls. You showed us how serious our sins are when You paid for them by Your own Precious Blood. Let the light of the Spirit of Truth illuminate my heart, my mind and all those areas in my life that need healing, and I surrender them all to You. Take, redeem and sanctify. Render my heart meek and humble so that I can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Mary, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, intercede for me. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.