

Pentecost 2020 Devotional

Spirit Sightings

In a constantly changing world we seek continuity in our lives. This has not been an easy experience, that seeking of continuity. Yes, we have experienced tremendous change with the onslaught of the COVID-19 Virus. This makes it even more important for us lay hold of that which can give us confidence to face the future.

The disciples caught as they were in the “upper room”, felt a different kind of disruption in their lives. Jesus, their master teacher, and comfort giver had been removed from them.



So it is that Jesus come into the “locked room”, of their hearts, and souls, and a literal “locked room”. Breathing on them, he said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit.”* And then he gave them the orders of the day, to forgive the sins. Thus, having received the Spirit, they are encouraged now to go and to witness the forgiving, reconciling mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

At Pentecost, “there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind...divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them...All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Spirit. Wind. Breath. These three English words are translations of the same single word in the original languages of the Bible, *ruach* in Hebrew and *pneuma* in Greek. Thus, we have the word picture of the Spirit-Wind-Breath of God moving over the face of the creation and of God’s people.

Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian church. It is the day when God breathed the breath of new life and the fire of God’s presence into the church through the preaching of apostle Peter. Jesus is Lord! Jesus is the one who brings peace, life, and forgiveness of sins to a broken and dying world.

We need that image more than ever! In the midst of pandemic change, we need the assurance of the very presence of God, and the reminder that the Holy Spirit is among us, flowing, floating, kindling, brooding and leading us. This Spirit of truth, sparks insight, refines knowledge into wisdom, and fortifies our future. The Spirit undergirds daily commitment and inspires us with new hope, new creativity and new life.

“Peace be with you...Receive the Holy Spirit!”

Pastor Dave Beard