

Evangelization News



Evangelization Newsletter #13 May 2023

Receive God's Holy Spirit

Throughout this Easter season we have been reading from the Book of the Acts of the Apostles. This book follows the apostles after Jesus' resurrection. The apostles who hid when Jesus was crucified have been made bold by their knowledge of Jesus' resurrection and the fulfillment of his promises. They faced harsh opposition as they shared Jesus' teachings. Now, we read, they have been filled with the Holy Spirit and are on fire for God. How can we all strive for this same enthusiasm? Read the description of the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came to thousands of new believers. Pentecost is one of the most exciting days in our Christian year, celebrated this year on May 28.

"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit". Acts 2: 1-4

As the persecution of the believers increased, they scattered to new areas. The persecution meant to silence them only served to spread Jesus' message more widely.

*Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there.
Acts 8:4-5*

Philip led the way to Samaria and was joined by more of the apostles. The Holy Spirit filled many more people.

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:14-17

All of us can receive the Holy Spirit and with it, God's strength to use the gifts God has given us. Be bold and pray that you will be willing to receive God's Holy Spirit and to share God's love and the reason for your faith. As we learn from the following story of Philip, how can those who don't know Christ understand unless someone explains it to them?

Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?" So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. Acts 8:30-31

As we approach the celebration of Pentecost, Pray to be filled with God's Holy Spirit. Strive to understand and share the Good News of Jesus. Join or start a Bible study (e.g. Women's Bible Study every second Wed. from 10:30-11:30 am in the Mary Room; next date is May 24); help with an Alpha course; start or join a Life Group; serve in one the many Christian ministries offered in Thunder Bay and at St. Agnes. Some good advice from the Wild Goose video series is, "even if you're busy or you don't know what else to pray, there's always time to pray "Come, Holy Spirit, Come!""

For ideas or information on any of the above activities email stagnesalpha@gmail.com.