

Talk 4: A New Pentecost for A New Evangelization

Fr. Erik Arnold

1. The Essential Role of the Holy Spirit

“How I long to find the right words to stir up enthusiasm for a new chapter of evangelization full of fervor, joy, generosity, courage, boundless love and attraction! Yet I realize that no words of encouragement will be enough unless the fire of the Holy Spirit burns in our hearts.”

-Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*, 261

2. Pentecost

a. We speak of Pentecost as the “Birthday of the Church”

i. We need to take this expression seriously.

3. The Holy Spirit was essential in the life and ministry of Jesus

“When Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and behold, a voice from heaven saying, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’”

- Matthew 3:16

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who were oppressed.”

- Luke 4:18

a. His identity is affirmed: “This is my beloved Son”

b. He is loved by the Father (word and presence).

c. He is anointed for mission by the Holy Spirit. *“He has anointed me to preach...”*

-Luke 4:18

4. Why Would It Be Any Different for the Apostles?

- a. Even after three years living day in and day out with Jesus, his command is: Stay and wait for *“the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak; for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the holy Spirit.”* (Acts 1)

5. Why Would It Be Any Different for Us?

“There can be no renewal in the Church without the Holy Spirit. There is no real deep renewal in our lives unless we open ourselves and let the Holy Spirit come into our lives. He wants to. He waits for us to open the door. I hope this day many of you will open the door to the Holy Spirit.”

-Fr. Raniero Cantalamesa, OFM, Preacher to the Papal Household

6. We must be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit

“Evangelization will never be possible without the action of the Holy Spirit.”

- Pope Paul VI

7. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit

- a. The preparation for the Christian Mission:

“While meeting with the apostles he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father about which you heard me speak; for John Baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- Acts 1:4-8

8. Jesus' baptism helps us understand our own baptism

“Everything that happened to Christ lets us know that, after the bath of water, the Holy Spirit swoops down upon us from high heaven and that, adopted by the Father's voice, we become sons of God.”

- St. Hilary of Poitiers (CCC, 537)

9. Identity and Mission

- a. We experience the love of God

“And hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured out in to our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

- Romans 5:5

- b. Made members of His family

“But to those who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.”

- John 1:12

- c. Sharers in the Mission

“To each individual the manifestation of the spirit is given for some benefit.”

- 1 Corinthians 12:7

10. Holy Spirit makes Jesus real for us

“The world is calling for evangelizers to speak to it of a God whom the evangelists themselves should know and be familiar with as if they could see the invisible.”

- Pope Paul VI

11. The importance of the Holy Spirit in the life and mission of a Christian

- a. Many baptized Christians do not know the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.
- b. Many lack a sense of identity and personal mission.
- c. How can that be?
- d. Each sacrament has an objective and a subjective part to it.
 - i. Objective: What God is doing...
 - ii. Subjective: What we are doing...
 - iii. This means that it is not enough for God alone to be at work – our own hearts must be disposed to what He is doing!

12. The Church knows we need moments to “choose again” the grace of the sacraments

“Is it not true that nearly all Christians prove unfaithful to the promises made to Jesus in baptism? Where does this universal failure come from, if not from man's habitual forgetfulness of the promises and responsibilities of baptism and from the fact that scarcely anyone makes a personal ratification of the contract made with God through his sponsors?”

- St. Louis de Montfort, *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary*, 127

“Today I would like to extend this invitation to everyone: Let us rediscover, dear brothers and sisters, the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit; let us be aware again of our baptism and of our confirmation, sources of grace that are always present.

- Pope Benedict, World Youth Day, 2008

13. Would you like to rediscover the beauty of being baptized in the Holy Spirit?

“Ask, Seek and Knock and ... how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

- Luke 11:5-13

a. Obstacles we may experience:

- i. Doubt - it won't happen for me...
- ii. Fear - what will God do with me? I'll lose control!
- iii. Unworthiness - I don't deserve to receive...

14. What we are praying for:

- a. Commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord
- b. Renewal in the Holy Spirit
- c. The removal of any obstacle to our being ready to make such a commitment.

15. How we will pray:

- a. Teams of two around the church or venue;
- b. Preferably men pray with men, women pray with women, married couples with either
- c. We pray as witnesses of their commitment and as brothers and sisters who have encountered the Lord and can support them in faith and love.
- d. We ask if we can place our hands on their shoulders or arm

16. Prayer

Lord God,

Please forgive me for all the things I have done wrong. I turn to You and turn away from sin.

Jesus, please be the center of my life. I welcome You personally as the Lord and Savior of my life. I surrender everything to you.

I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit, and empower me to truly live a new life.

Praise and thank You, Lord. Amen!