

## **Session 3**

### **Four things to remember**

#### **TRUST in God's plan for your life.**

"The Lord has amazing plans for my life" 1Cor. 2:9

#### **SURRENDER to His will for you.**

"The Lord is doing something new in my life" Isa. 43:19

#### **BELIEVE in Jesus and His True Presence in the Eucharist**

"The Holy Spirit guides me to all truth." John 16

#### **RECEIVE all He has to gift freely to you.**

"The Lord is my shepherd and I lack nothing." PS 23:1

### **Prayer**

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And you shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

### **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

Jesus stresses the importance of the Holy Spirit; His coming would be even more beneficial than Jesus remaining with the Apostles.

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, equal to God the Father and Jesus His Son.

We receive the Holy Spirit through the sacrament of Baptism.

Through the Sacrament of Confirmation, the work of the Holy Spirit is enhanced so as to have a greater effect as we mature as Christians.

The Gifts of the Spirit are; Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, Fear of the Lord. They are Sanctifying Gifts; they serve to enable us to live holier lives.

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit living in their lives as a result of Baptism.

The Spirit works within the individual Christian by empowering him to live as a child of God. The life of the Holy Spirit within us is vitally important to our personal lives and to the effectiveness of the whole Church.

### **The Power of the Spirit**

The Spirit lives in us and desires to transform our lives, the Church and the world.

We may know about the Spirit's role and power without being open to experience it.

One way in which the Holy Spirit moves is through an experience of New Life in the Spirit as the Apostles experienced at Pentecost.

This New Life in the Spirit can be described as a fresh movement of the Holy Spirit in a person's life leading to greater growth in personal sanctification and in service for the Church.

This New Life in the Spirit is an experience of the Spirit's presence and movement in our lives.

### **Experiencing New Life in the Spirit**

An overwhelming sense of the presence and love of God.

Being filled with peace or joy

The release of one of the spiritual gifts

Deepens appreciation of the sacraments

Increased desire to spend time in silence and prayer

Reading Scripture becomes more meaningful

The Spiritual gifts are powerful instruments of the work of the Spirit in the Church.

#### **The spiritual gifts include:**

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues and Interpretation

By yielding to the gifts of the Holy Spirit we begin to experience how the Spirit can use us in a variety of ways.

### **Opening to the Spirit**

While the Holy Spirit is able to transform us, He needs our openness and cooperation.

This requires trust on our part- trusting in the Spirit's ability to do what we cannot do, to work in ways that do not make sense to our limited understanding.

Obstacles to consider-

Resisting because we do not intellectually understand.

Withholding forgiveness from someone who has hurt us.

Feeling as though we are not worthy or "holy enough."

Thinking that speaking in tongues or other manifestations are emotional displays, childish or unnecessary. God will not force these manifestations on you. Yielding to these are your decision.

### **Prayer**

O Holy Spirit, Breath of the Living God You were breathed into clay to give life to Adam and breathed into the Apostles to give the new life of Christ. Thank you for the life You give to me, the very life of my loving Father.

Holy Spirit, I desire to be made new in every way, I want to fulfill my Father's plan for my life, and to do my part in renewing the Church and the world.

Yet like a lump of clay, I myself am nothing. I have no strength, no power of my own. I try to change myself and others yet accomplish so little.

Holy Spirit, Your ways are not like my ways. Your thoughts and designs are far different from mine. So often I resist and struggle, yet I realize that it is only by Your ways that the power of God can work.

I abandon myself to Your will for me, to Your ways in my life, to Your gifts at work in me and through me. Breath Your life into me in a new way and make me a new creation for Your honor and glory.

I pray in Jesus' Name. Amen

### **Questions for Session 3 - Receiving God's Gift/ The Power of the Spirit**

1. What mental picture do you have of the disciples on Pentecost?
2. In what ways might it be difficult to yield to the working of the Holy Spirit?
3. What do you expect to happen when we pray for New Life in the Spirit with everyone on the evening of Pentecost 2025, June 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. What gifts do you wish to receive in more power on Pentecost?
5. What gifts do you wish to understand and use in your life?
6. What importance do repentance, conversion or reconciliation have in your family today? What importance did they have to your family when you were a child?

### **Scripture**

Jn 4:13-14      Luke 11:9-13      Acts 2:38-39      John 3:8      John  
16:7

Isaiah 11:2-3      2 Cor.3:18      Gal. 5:22      Romans 8:26-27