

8 – 5-31-20 Pentecost

What happened in the Upper Room?

We've been hearing selections from the *Acts of the Apostles* since Easter. We've heard many amazing things the apostles had done in proclaiming the Resurrection of Jesus. Today we go back to the beginning of the *Acts of the Apostles* and celebrate what caused (or I should say "Who caused") all the amazing things to happen.

Early on in the book of the *Acts of the Apostles*, its lead actor, the Holy Spirit, is introduced. The Holy Spirit becomes the dominating presence both for the Book of Acts and the building of the early Church. With the descent of the Holy Spirit the Church was born.

The Holy Spirit is described as a rushing and mighty wind that transforms many lives by infusing them with and inspiring them to deeper faith. The Holy Spirit is a powerful presence, and has the power to turn lives around.

Christians believe that the Holy Spirit leads people to faith in Jesus and gives them the ability to lead a Christian life. The Spirit dwells inside every true Christian, each one's body being His temple. The Spirit's action in one's life produces positive results, known as the *Fruit of the Spirit*. The Holy Spirit manifests these gifts by enabling a person to access his or her own innate abilities. Through the influence of the Holy Spirit a person sees more clearly the world around him or her and can use his or her mind and body in ways that exceed his or her previous capacity.

The *Acts of the Apostles* is an amazing book. It tells how the Holy Spirit empowered the early Christians to live THE WAY of Jesus. The Holy Spirit gave the early Christians great courage to face terrible adversities and persevere in living a Christian life, and boldly proclaiming that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of the world. And, powerful signs accompanied the early Christian communities.

My friends, the same Holy Spirit is alive and in our midst today. And, we, as individuals, and more as a community, are meant to do many of the same things that the early Christians did through the power of the Holy Spirit, because we have the same Holy Spirit within us and around us.

To be sure, Pentecost comes to each of us in the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. In Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit and become God's children and members of the body of Christ. In Confirmation we receive a new fullness of the Spirit and are empowered to serve the Church and bear witness to Jesus. And, of course, in the Eucharist we receive the very Body and Blood of Jesus, who is the all-powerful Lord and Savior.

This means: we have the power of God! And, it's time to unleash the Holy Spirit and allow His power to inspire and guide every facet of our lives. Working through us, the Holy Spirit will renew our lives and the face of the earth!