

The Question of the Week

“When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, (the disciples) were all in one place together. Suddenly there came from the sky a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 2: 1-3

Had you or I been there that day in Jerusalem what would have been our experience? Would we have felt the driving wind? Seen the tongues of fire descending on each one there? Would we have witnessed the instantaneous transformation of these frightened disciples into newly bold heralds of the good news of Jesus Christ? What happened? What got into them? How could they be changed like that?

One thing is clear there was something that happened that day, something that changed all those in that large and spacious Upper Room. They would never be the same again. The Spirit took hold of them and you know what went out from them? Fear. Just like that. They were no longer afraid. But didn't they know that bad things could still very much happen to them? Yes, I think they still knew all that. It's just that it didn't matter any more. Up until that moment they had experienced the Holy Spirit, they had felt the Holy Spirit in Jesus' own breathing on them that Easter Sunday night in this very same Upper Room. They had already felt the peace of that Spirit in their own lives, being forgiven by the very Lord whom they had abandoned and turned away from.

Yes, the Holy Spirit had already touched their lives but this was different. That initial experience of the Spirit of God was preparing the soil to receive the seed that was about to be sown. The very Spirit of God would now enter into each of them and abide within them. That very Spirit would indwell their souls from that day forward. And from that moment when they opened themselves to the Spirit they were never the same. Why? Because up until then they had the Holy Spirit. NOW the Holy Spirit had them! My friends, that is what we really want. We want the Holy Spirit to be in charge in our lives, directing, guiding, enlightening, strengthening, and leading us. Pray for that grace for yourselves each day. It made all the difference in the lives of those early disciples. Wouldn't you like to be free from the fears that so often assault you from within and without? That is the question of the week.