

## *Crumbs – Good News for the Diaspora!*



Illustration: Elijah Nourished by Angel

### A Devotional for the Week of Whitsunday.

## FIRST DAY OF PENTECOST.

*And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. – Acts 2:4.*

When the day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day after Easter, was fully come, ten days after the ascension of Jesus Christ, at nine o'clock in the morning, the disciples were all, one hundred and twenty of them, both men and women, assembled with one accord in an upper room of a house. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire. And the Holy Ghost sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, other languages, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven, who had come to the feast. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together at this house, and were confounded, because every man heard the disciples speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another: "Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Lybia about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, – we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God." And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another: "What meaneth this?" Others, mocking, said: "These men are full of new wine."

This outpouring of the Holy Ghost upon the disciples of Jesus had been prophesied in the Old Testament, and repeatedly promised by Jesus, both before His suffering and death and after His resurrection. And it was attended by great and miraculous signs and wonders, so that all might observe it. The Holy Ghost wanted to equip the first witnesses of Jesus with power from on high unto their great calling of preaching the Gospel to all the world. And He always wants to glorify Christ through the Word of the Evangelists and Apostles in the hearts of those whom He brings to faith in Christ. He also wants to glorify Christ in your heart, O Christian!

*PRAYER.* – God, Holy Ghost, I implore You, glorify Christ also in my heart, that I may firmly rely on Him and on His gracious Gospel over against sin, temptation, affliction, death, judgment, and eternal damnation,

and finally obtain eternal salvation: who lives and reigns with the Father and with the Son, true God, world without end. Amen.

Hymn 260, 1. 2.

NOW do we pray God the Holy Ghost  
For the true faith which we need the most,  
And that He defend us, when life is ending,  
And from exile home we shall be wending.  
Lord, have mercy!

Shine in our hearts, O most precious Light,  
That we Jesus Christ may know aright,  
Clinging to our Savior, whose blood has bought us,  
Who again to our true home has brought us.  
Lord, have mercy!

#### SECOND DAY OF PENTECOST.

*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ. – Acts 2:36.*

While the devout men marveled at the miraculous outpouring of the Holy Ghost, and the scoffers were scoffing, Peter arose with the eleven. And the fire of the Holy Ghost burned in their hearts and on their lips, as well as visibly on their heads. And Peter said: "Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken unto my words; for these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day."

And then he delivered a powerful sermon, which you may read in the second chapter of the Acts. First he showed that this outpouring of the Holy Ghost had been foretold by the Prophet Joel, who said that it would occur in the last days, that is, *after the Messiah had come*. (Joel 3.) And then, yes, then He showed that *Jesus of Nazareth*, approved of God among them by miracles and wonders and signs, but crucified and slain by them according to the counsel of God, had *risen* from the dead, as the Scriptures (Psalm 16) had likewise foretold of the Messiah. "Whereof we all are witnesses" said Peter.

And then he showed them that the risen Lord, after He had been exalted to the right hand of God, according to the prophecy of Scripture concerning Christ, the Messiah (Psalm 110), *had shed forth this* which they now saw and heard, that is, the Holy Ghost, attended by wonders and great signs, as again foretold by Joel for the time of the Messiah. And most impressively he said, in closing: "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified both Lord and Christ." And immediately the Holy Ghost proved His power upon the hearts of the hearers: when they heard this, they were pricked in their hearts.

– Tomorrow we shall see what followed. But for today note that this outpouring of the Holy Ghost after Jesus' ascension proves that Jesus is the Christ promised in the Old Testament, for it was to happen in the days of Christ. And note also that the Holy Ghost works and sustains saving faith in us through the Word of Christ, and not otherwise.

*PRAYER.* – Lord God, Heavenly Father, who out of fatherly love toward us poor sinners did give us Your Son, that we should believe in Him and through faith be saved, I pray You, let Your Holy Spirit enter also my heart, that I may remain steadfast in such faith to my end, and obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our dear Lord. Amen.

Hymn 262, 3. 4.

Come, Thou incarnate Word,  
Gird on Thy mighty sword,  
Our prayer attend:  
Come, and Thy people bless,  
And give Thy Word success;  
Spirit of holiness,  
On us descend.  
Come, Holy Comforter,  
Thy sacred witness bear  
In this glad hour:  
Thou Who almighty art,  
Now rule in ev'ry heart,  
And ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of power!

## TUESDAY.

*And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. – Acts 2:42.*

Those whose hearts were moved by the Holy Ghost through Peter's sermon now said to Peter and to the rest of the Apostles: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them: "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost," (like as we). "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God, shall call." And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying: "Save yourselves from this untoward generation" (the scoffers). Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul. And many wonders and signs were done by the Apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; and sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the Temple, and breaking bread from house to house, eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved.

What a pentecostal festival! What powerful grace of the Holy Ghost by means of Peter's sermon! Three thousand repented and believed in the Savior and were baptized! And they continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, in order to ground and strengthen themselves more fully. They loved one another; and it was a true, self-denying, and most active love. And they came together daily in larger and smaller assemblies to hear the Word and receive the Sacraments, to offer prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. Their light shone. Even more souls that embraced Christ in faith were added to the congregation.

– Are we living in a time in which faith is rare? Indeed! Do our congregations resemble that first congregation? Alas, no! But we have the Word of the Apostles, the same saving grace of the Holy Ghost. The fault lies with us. God help us!

*PRAYER.* – My God, I am ashamed of the poor use I make of Your Word and of the power of the Holy Spirit given me therein. Forgive me

this sin for Jesus' sake! O grant that in true and heartfelt repentance I may be renewed by Your Holy Spirit to become a true Christian, thus being saved myself, and also becoming a light to others, pointing them to Jesus and salvation in Him. Perform this miracle of grace in me, O God! Amen.

## Hymn 257, 1.

COME, Holy Ghost, God and Lord!  
Be all Thy graces now outpoured  
On each believer's mind and heart:  
Thy fervent love to them impart.  
Lord, by the brightness of Thy light  
Thou in the faith dost men unite  
Of every tongue and every nation;  
We, therefore, sing with exultation:  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

## WEDNESDAY.

*The Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send you in my name, He shall teach you all things. – John 14:26.*

What is this Holy Ghost who was poured out so miraculously upon the disciples of Jesus, and who gathered so glorious a congregation from among the Jews? Is this Holy Ghost some spiritual state and power of the human mind, wrought and effected by God? When it is said that the Holy Ghost was poured out, and that He did these wonderful things, does this merely mean that God wrought and effected such marvelous things? No.

The Holy Ghost is God, the living and personal God Himself. Scripture says that they in whom the Spirit of God, the Holy Ghost, dwells, are the temple of God. (1 Corinthians 3:16.) Hence the Holy Ghost is *God*. But again, Jesus said to His disciples in the night before His death: "The Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send you in my name, He shall teach you all things." If the Father *sends* the Holy Ghost in the name of the Son, then, evidently, the Holy Ghost, who is God, is *not the same person* as the Father and the Son. And are we not baptized "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost"? The Holy Ghost is the third person of the Holy Trinity, true God with the Father and the Son. He is the gracious and merciful God who through the Gospel calls us poor miserable

sinner to Christ, and enlightens us, so that we believe in our Savior and come to Him, and are saved; and with great long-suffering He sanctifies and keeps us in the true faith to our end. To this end the Father sends Him in the name of the Son, who has reconciled us to Him and re-established the communion between God and us. The Holy Ghost teaches us to believe in Christ, our Savior, and so to become God's dear children, whom God will take to heaven.

O Christian, know, honor, praise, and love the Holy Ghost, and abide with His Word, by means of which He keeps you in true faith and brings you to heaven.

*PRAYER.* – God, Holy Ghost, who are true God with the Father and the Son, and who does show me like compassion with the Father and the Son, forsake me not, but give me of Your strength, that I may steadfastly cling to my Savior in true faith, and overcome all temptations of the devil, the world, and my flesh, and obtain life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn 251.

O Holy Ghost, eternal God,  
Blest Comfort for life's rugged road,  
With all my heart I pray to Thee;  
Hear my entreaty graciously.

O Lord, be Thou my Comforter,  
Lest in my sins I might despair;  
Protect me from the snares of hell,  
Grant that in Jesus Christ I dwell.

That always I may ready be  
To serve this Master faithfully,  
And own Him in true living faith  
My Lord and Savior unto death.

O lead me in the narrow way,  
And from the fold let me not stray,  
That when this mortal frame I leave,  
The crown of life I may receive.

THURSDAY.

*No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost.*

– 1 Corinthians 12:3.

To say that Jesus is the Lord is to believe in Him and to come to Him in true faith. No man can do this by his own reason or strength; we can only do this through the gracious working of the Holy Ghost. By nature, by virtue of our own reason and strength, we can do various and many things, always, of course, under God. But not this. Of ourselves we cannot do a particle, not the least little thing towards inclining our heart to believe in Jesus, nor in any way adapt or prepare ourselves thereto. For by nature we are spiritually dead.

Unto all things that concern Jesus, and which the Gospel and Spirit of God convey to us, we are dead. This is due to our sinful state. We are by nature "dead in trespasses and sins." (Ephesians 2.1.) "The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him; neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." (1 Corinthians 2:14.) And we are not spiritual by nature, but carnal, only carnal, controlled and actuated by sin, carnal-minded. And this carnal mind not only considers the Gospel of God foolishness, but even hates it. By nature we do not want to come to God through Jesus Christ, because we love sin and hate the life with God and in God. We do not like to be subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can we. Hence we have a slavish fear of God, and hate Him, and wish there were no God. "The carnal mind is enmity against God." (Romans 8:7.) So no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost. Faith is the work of the Holy Ghost, and of Him only. Faith is kindled in man's heart entirely without his co-operation; there is as little co-operation as in creation – even less; for in creation there is no hostile resistance.

O how completely dependent we are upon the grace of the faithful Lord, the Holy Ghost!

*PRAYER.* – God, Holy Ghost, merciful Lord, I thank You with all my heart that You have freed me, a poor sinner, spiritually dead, from the bonds of blindness and of hostile resistance, and in faith have brought me to my only Savior, Jesus Christ, that I might be saved. I pray You, do not by any means leave me, but through Your gracious almighty power keep me in true faith unto my end. Amen.

Hymn 246, 1.

COME O come, Thou quickening Spirit,  
True God from eternity!  
Let us Thy blest grace inherit,  
And our souls be filled with Thee;  
Then shall spirit, life, and light  
Drive away our inner night.

FRIDAY.

*God hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began. – 2 Timothy 1:9.*

Get a clear notion from Scripture, Christian, of the way in which the Holy Ghost has kindled faith in Christ in your heart. – God has saved you, that is, He has worked saving faith in you. How did He do it? He has *called* you, through the Gospel He called you to Christ. Through this very call He has saved you, kindled saving faith in Christ in you. By so calling you, He at once *enlightened* you with His gifts, He caused the light of faith to shine in your dark heart (2 Corinthians 4:6.); He mightily, powerfully, and effectively called you out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9.); He regenerated and converted you.

As Christ called Lazarus back from the grave into the life of this body, so the Holy Ghost, in a spiritual manner, called you from spiritual death into spiritual life with His holy calling, with an unparalleled, divine, divinely powerful calling, with a calling that is in full accord with His divine holiness, and in itself is holy, without spot or blemish. For He has called you, and converted you, and kindled faith in you, not according to your works, not because you have been willing and even desiring to be called, nor because of your better conduct. That would be teaching contrary to His Word, which says that by nature you are spiritually dead, contrary to the plain words of Scriptures which attribute all to grace, to grace alone. It would not be holy, not in accord with His divine holiness.

No, He has called you according – well, according to what? – He has called and converted you according to His own purpose and grace, according to His gracious purpose, according to His purpose, which rests alone on His grace, which was given you in Christ Jesus and for His sake

before the world began, from eternity. It is due to grace, and to grace only, that the Holy Ghost has kindled saving faith in Christ in you, grace within and without, grace in time and eternity, grace in Christ Jesus. Now, thank Him for it.

*PRAYER.* – O Lord, I did not approach You, but You have lovingly approached me. I did not seek You, but You have sought me. I did not choose You, but You have chosen me. It is owing to Your grace alone that You have called me in Christ and brought me to faith in Him. O holy God, how shall I thank You? Keep me in true faith and give unto me eternal life which You have given me in faith. In heaven I will thank You fully and in all eternity. Amen.

Hymn 349, 4. 5.

I wandered long in willing blindness,  
I sought Thee, but I found Thee not,  
For still I shunned Thy beams of kindness,  
The creature-light filled all my thought,  
And if at last I see Thee now,  
'Twas Thou to me didst bow!

I thank Thee, Jesus, Sun from heaven,  
Whose shining hath brought light to me;  
I thank Thee, who hast richly given  
All that could make me glad and free;  
I thank Thee that my soul is healed  
By what Thy lips revealed.

SATURDAY.

*We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*  
– *Ephesians 2:10.*

Dear Christian, the Holy Spirit has performed a creative act in kindling faith in Christ within you. He infused life into your spiritual death, light into your darkness. In your present condition you are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus. You are a new man in Christ Jesus,

with whom you are united through faith. You possess new life, a new mind, new powers. Now you must also do new works, must walk in new works, in the works of faith, of the new life, the new mind, the new strength which you have received. The Holy Spirit has before ordained that you should walk in them. When according to His purpose and grace in Christ Jesus He created you anew, He thereby endowed you with the ability and will to do good works. He sanctified you in the faith. And now it is His will that you should lead a sanctified life. "This is the will of God, even your sanctification."

(1 Thessalonians 4:3.)

Remember this! But also remember that faith, once kindled within you, is sustained in you only by the constant and powerful operation of the Holy Ghost within you. "Ye are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation." (1 Peter 1:5.) And so all new things that are given you together with faith, hence also your sanctification, are sustained in you only by the power of the Holy Ghost constantly operating within you. And He does this by the Gospel, not otherwise.

As iron can remain hot only by constant union with fire, so you can remain in faith and sanctification only through constant union with the Holy Ghost. And this union with the Holy Ghost and with His divine power by which He creates and sustains true sanctification within you is established solely through the Gospel.

Therefore, Christian, abide by the Gospel, or you can not but die spiritually.

*PRAYER.* – God, Holy Ghost, I thank You that through Your Gospel You have created me anew in Christ Jesus. I thank You that You have given me a new mind and new strength. Help me, Lord, to perform new works – those works which You have before ordained that I should walk in them. And grant me grace to continue steadfastly in the Gospel all my life, and let Your power abide in me, for without it I can do nothing. Let me depart this life in faith and enter eternal life. Amen.

Hymn 271, 3.

Holy Ghost, be Thou our Stay,  
When hell's dread powers assail us;  
Cleans us from our sins, we pray,  
Nor in our last hour fail us,  
Keep us from the Evil One:

Firm in the faith abiding,  
In Christ our Savior hiding,  
And heartily confiding.

Let us put God's armor on:  
With all true Christians running  
Our heavenly race, and shunning  
The Devil's wiles and cunning,  
Amen, Amen, this be done,  
So sing we Hallelujah!

These devotions are adapted from *Crumbs* by C. M. Zorn (1914).  
The hymn stanzas are from *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* (1918).  
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