

14 June, 2012

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This morning we continue our examination of what we believe as Anglican Christians. Last week we looked at Christ's resurrection from the dead this week we look at third person of the Trinity... God the Holy Spirit. Article 5 of the Articles of Religion states "The Holy Spirit, proceeding from the Father and the Son, is of one substance, majesty, and glory with the Father and the Son, very and eternal God."

On this, the first week in the Season after Pentecost it is only right that we examine The Holy Spirit promised by Jesus as the Comforter, Counselor & Guide.

What does Holy Spirit do? He makes holy the souls of believers by His presence. How does He do that? The Holy Spirit transforms the soul by making it capable of taking in the infinite streams of knowledge and love that flow within the Holy Trinity. Thus we "**may become partakers of the divine nature**" (2 Peter 1:4ESV). This is a blessing & joy so great that any earthly honor is insignificant in comparison. What does it mean to "partake of the divine nature" of God? Well, scripture and experience teaches us that the Holy Spirit grants spiritual gifts and imparts special characteristics to the believer.

These gifts are listed in St. Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians: "**Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the ability to distinguish between spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.**" (1 Corinthians 12:4-11 ESV) It is not simply that the Holy Spirit has these gifts but he desires to grant them to us...IF we but ask!



When we invite God the Holy Spirit into our lives He also imparts character traits: These traits are granted to those who are open to the movement of the Spirit in their lives and who both ask for and are willing to use them to the glory of God and not their own glory. What are these traits?

Scripture tells us: "**And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear**" (Isaiah 11:2-3 ESV) in other words: Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge, Fear of the Lord & Piety (Reliance upon God.) These traits were given as signs of the Messiah and the Kingdom of God. Those who partake in the divine nature share these traits.

On that first Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down visibly on the Apostles and other believers, transforming them from selfish and timid men into giants of courage and faith, and He can and will transform us if we are willing to allow him into our lives Thanks be to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit!

Godspeed,

Bishop Menees

Diocesan Calendar

June 16th - Diocesan Council

June 17th - Bishop @ St. Alban's in Los Banos

July 1st - Bishop @ St. Andrew's In Lancaster

July 2nd - July 10th - Bishop Menees on Vacation

July 8-14th - Family Camp @ ECCO

July 10th - Rural Deans at 10:00 a.m.

July 15 - 21st - Camp H2O

July 15th - Bishop @ Good Shepherd in Reedley

July 21st - Diocesan Council @ 10:00 a.m.

July 22nd - Bishop @ St. Jude's in Tehachapi

July 24th - July 28th - Camp San Joaquin High School Camp

July 29th - August 2nd - Camp San Joaquin Youth Camp

August 3rd-5th - Anglican Women's Retreat

August 5th - Bishop @ St. Timothy's in Bishop

August 9-10 - Provincial Hispanic Ministry Conference. at the Cathedral, "Caminemos Juntos"

October 5-7th - Clergy Wives Retreat @ ECCO

October 27th - Honored Women's Luncheon

November 2-3 - Diocesan Convention @ St. James Cathedral

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