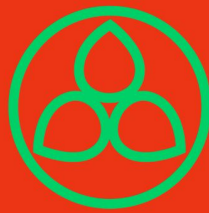




PENTECOST RETREAT



ARNA
Anglican Renewal Network Australia

ARNA PENTECOST PODCAST 2023

Guidance of the Holy Spirit

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DAY #2 GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT *Holy Spirit Given*

As we reflect on the gifts from our abundant God, the gift of creation, the gift of forgiveness, the gift of righteousness. We give thanks for the ultimate gift, to call you Abba Father. Thank you for the Holy Spirit, placed in our hearts. May we be attentive to that Spirit in our hearts and minds this day.

I focus on Centring on God's Presence

As we seek to receive the Holy Spirit, we sit in humble thanksgiving for this mystical gift received not by our own doing, but by believing. Renew and multiply our belief, O Lord.

Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? - Galatians 3.2

I pause and pray.

Lord, we ask for humility, that you may grant us the humility to acknowledge our need for your help, your guidance, your indwelling.

Forgive our arrogance in believing we are capable of guiding ourselves. Forgive where we have sought guidance from this fallen world. Inhabit us now, by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit that we may be drawn closer to you.

I reflect

How may we be drawn into such proximity with God as Jesus had, that we should willingly be guided as Jesus was? How are we drawn, to be disciplined in following?

We celebrate today the receiving of the Holy Spirit, imagining the unimaginable, that the Holy Spirit who descended upon Jesus at his baptism should be gifted to us. To guide us and empower us to a disciplined life.

I challenge

In a self-made world, with an ethic of building and curating our lives, our truth, we are not always honest with our need for external help. Sure, we have professional mentors, but my personal needs and my personal life, I will do it myself thank you!

Galatians offers a challenge to this. We need external guidance that can direct us in fulfilling who we are in Christ. We need the Holy Spirit to guide us into humility to even begin to receive such assistance.

I recall when I was a factory hand, I had a great relationship with my boss. Yes, there were a lot of corrections and a lot of direction from him, but I would simply accept it and carry on, to be honest I needed the help. Whereas another worker would constantly clash with the very same boss.

He asked, Pete, how do you work so happily together. My response, I don't need to always be right or perhaps more appropriately, we are trying to achieve an outcome, I'm not bothered if it is achieved my way or his way. In fact, the assistance taught me a lot.

The problem for this employee was not the final product, it was a lack of humility that someone may know a different way. It was a lack of humility that limited his growth. He didn't believe someone could know better. He didn't believe he needed help.

Are we so stubborn as to believe we have it all together?

Or do we accept that there is a need for external help in our lives?

Christ achieved for us what we could never. And gifted to us an advocate waiting to be received.

I listen

As we turn to the scriptures, ask what or who we allow to govern and guide us? What more could life be if we were to open more widely, more receptively, our hearts and minds to the guiding work of your Holy Spirit? The Spirit that wants to draw us ever closer to Jesus Christ and the Fathers will. How do we receive that Holy Spirit?

Galatians 3.2-5, 4.6

I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh? Have you experienced so much in vain—if it really was in vain? So again I ask, does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you by the works of the law, or by your believing what you heard?

So also Abraham "believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness."

I Pray

Heavenly Father,

May we receive the willingness of the Holy Spirit to overcome our hearts and guide us to God's good works, to God's will. None of which is our effort but God's gracious gift. Therefore, we sing praise with and by the Holy Spirit that we may call you Abba Father, that we may seek you as we would an earthly Father. Celebrating our connectedness to you, to be guided by you, through your treasured gift of the Holy Spirit.

Lord help our unbelief, increase our belief that we may receive more fully more openly, the guidance of your Holy Spirit.

Amen