



ARNA PENTECOST PODCAST 2023

PENTECOST RETREAT 2023 – Week 5, TALK 1 Awaken my heart to the nearness of the Spirit.

Welcome to week 5, our last week of the 2023 Pentecost Retreat. Today is Monday June 26. This week's topic "Holy Spirit and drawing us near" has us focusing on Intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

I Focus Centring On God's Presence

Jesus said in John 14:17b

"But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."

Holy Spirit, we still ourselves in your presence, wanting to know you more deeply. We desire to discover what pleases you and what delights you.

We ask for a freshly awakened, and deepened, fellowship with you Holy Spirit, as in the fellowship Paul prayed for in 2 Corinthians 13:14.

Holy Spirit, we make this time to draw near to you and focus on your presence in joy, love, and wonder.

We pray for understanding, knowledge, revelation, wisdom, counsel, and a holy fear of the Lord.

We breathe you in, very breath of God, and welcome your fellowship and wisdom.

.... in silence I pray

[Pause]

I Imagine

Our theme today is the Awakening of our hearts to the near, and abiding, presence of the Holy Spirit.

At the beginning of verse 8 in chapter 4 James says:

“Come near to God and he will come near to you”.

Today I choose to align my desires, my thoughts, and my priorities to draw near to you Holy Spirit as a way of awakening my heart to pursue intimacy and a close relationship with you.

The way has been made possible by the shedding of Jesus’ Blood allowing repentant sinners in his holy presence.

Hebrews 10:19-22

“Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, ²¹ and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.”

Intimacy in any relationship is a quest for a meeting of hearts in the deepest of places.

Intimacy with the Holy Spirit can be awakened as we seek to listen, talk together, and walk in step with the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:24-25 NLV

“Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”

[Pause]

I Challenge myself

Oswald Chambers said, “My goal is God Himself, at any cost, by any road” (My Utmost for His Highest. November 17, The Eternal Goal). I challenge myself - What would it cost me to make it my goal to draw near to the Lord? Daily? Moment by moment?

Holy Spirit, I seek to have fellowship with you as I read the Word of God. I seek to linger with you, talk to you and listen to the God-breathed Truth that is within the Scriptures.

1 Corinthians 2:10b -12

“The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us.”

When we speak with people in their own language it usually enhances a closeness in a relationship. God’s primary communication, God’s self-revelation, is the Word of God. Jesus is the “Logos,” The Word (John 1:1) and The Word is called the Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17). I choose to pray, utter, speak back to God the very Word of God itself as part of my relationship with our Triune God. Holy Spirit gives each of us a variety of ways of communicating including through praise and singing. For some it may be tongues (1 Corinthians 14:18), for others it is in groanings (Romans 8:26), and for some it is in the stillness – the place of the still small voice (1 Kings 19:12).

I challenge myself to pursue intimacy with you, Holy Spirit, by talking with you throughout the day. I choose to talk and listen as I journey through each day. I thank you, Holy Spirit, that through singing I can communicate with you in ways that help us meet ‘heart to heart’.

I will sing a song to awaken tenderness and love within my own heart.

[Pause]

I Listen

Let us listen again to Jesus’ words from the gospel of John in the NRSV version:

“You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you”. (14:17b)

And from James 4:8

“Come near to God and he will come near to you”.

[Pause]

I Pray

Holy Spirit of the Trinitarian Godhead, I thank you that you live in me - that you have your tabernacle within this clay vessel. In this Pentecost season I choose to partner with you to awaken my heart to seek you, to know you, and love you more deeply. I choose to go deeper and come nearer. I welcome you to fellowship with me by guiding every thought, word, or action today. I particularly seek to know what pleases you or displeases you.

Abiding Spirit of God, I humbly choose to pause as I read the Word and abide with you more and more, listening and speaking to you from a tender heart. I truly value your presence and am so aware that the cost of having you live within me was the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus.

I thank you, Holy Trinity, for such a precious gift. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.