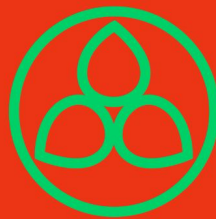




PENTECOST RETREAT



ARNA
Anglican Renewal Network Australia

ARNA PENTECOST PODCAST 2023 TALK 2 Sanctifying Presence

Welcome to week 5, our last week of the 2023 Pentecost Retreat. Today is Tuesday June 27. This week's topic "Holy Spirit and drawing us near."

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 the silence I pray

[Pause]

I Imagine

1 Corinthians 6:11b: “... *But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.*”

Today our theme is the Sanctifying Presence of the Holy Spirit and how intimacy with the Spirit produces a longing for holiness.

Peter wrote in his First Epistle (1:15-16) “*But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do; ¹⁶for it is written: “Be holy, because I am holy.”* At the beginning of the same Epistle, Peter also says about the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in us: “...*who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with his blood: ...*” ¹

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters loved by the Lord, because God chose you as first fruits to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. ¹⁴ He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

[Pause]

I Challenge myself

Peter tells us in his second Epistle that we have been given everything we need for a godly life.²

How well do I partner in the intimate, sanctifying, and transforming work of the Holy Spirit?

Paul shows a way to partner with the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:25:

“Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit”.

Today I challenge myself by asking: How well do I keep in step with the Holy Spirit?

[Pause]

The closer I walk with the Spirit the more I long for holiness and nearness to the Lord.

¹ 1 Peter 1: 2

² 2 Peter 1:3

Eugene Petersen says: “Holy refers to life burning with an intense purity that transforms everything it touches into itself.”³

To what extent does the purity of my life reflect the holiness of the Lord’s Spirit who lives within?

“The Hebrew word ‘holy’ (‘qadosh’) probably originally meant ‘separate’ or ‘set apart’. It came to be used to describe the ‘otherness’ of God, and how his character and nature are so much greater and more wonderful than any other person or thing.

I wonder - do I reflect the character of the gentle, wise, totally holy, pure, glorious Holy Spirit? Is this reflected in my daily life?

[Pause]

I Listen

2 Corinthians 6: 16b-17

For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said:

*“I will live with them
and walk among them,
and I will be their God,
and they will be my people.”
¹⁷ Therefore,*

*“Come out from them
and be separate,
says the Lord.
Touch no unclean thing,
and I will receive you.”*

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8

“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. ⁸ Therefore, anyone who rejects this instruction does not reject a human being but God, the very God who gives you his Holy Spirit.”

Worship the Lord in the splendour of his holiness – Psalm 29:2b

[Pause]

³ Eugene Petersen The Message. Introduction to Leviticus (Nav Press 2007)

I Pray

Oh, Holy Spirit, I thank you that it is your nature to be holy. I choose to re-dedicate myself to your sanctifying presence afresh today. Thank you that you give me everything I need for life and godliness. I celebrate your sanctifying presence and pray to become more finely tuned into keeping in step with you today and each day.

I pray for the whole Body of Christ to live out its dedication to you by being devoted to you and reflecting your character. Holy Spirit, I pray for your refining fire to so burn in the Body of Christ that it is transformed daily and as a result transforms the people, situations, and the world around each member.

I am so thankful for your sanctifying work within me and within the whole body of Christ, blessed Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen.