



SAINT PAUL
Evangelization Institute

Basic Evangelization Training

Course 6: Introduction to a New Pentecost

Introduction: The Holy Spirit is the Fruit of the Paschal Mystery

Hello, my name is Pete Burak, and I'm the director of i.d.916. We are an outreach of Renewal Ministries trying to help young adults become intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. This is lesson six of module one of the online Basic Evangelization Training. The module is Introduction to Evangelization and the lesson is Introduction to a New Pentecost.

So, there's a startling moment in the Gospel of John where Jesus is with His disciples, and he kind of drops a bomb on them a little bit, where He says this: "I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7)

Obviously, what He's talking about here is, at the time He ascends to the Father, He's going to pour out the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, on His disciples. And this is what He says the Holy Spirit will do: "And when he comes [the counselor, the Holy Spirit], he will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in me; of righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more; [and] of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged." (John 16:8-11)

He's talking about the devil -- you know, the world, the flesh, and the devil, that rules over the world in this time and place, but will not forever. And what he's saying is that the Spirit, when the Spirit comes, He's going to reveal the truth about who rules this world, but ultimately, who has the power over that ruler. And it's going to convict the hearts of the believers and the hearts of those who do not. And then he says this: "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me." (John 16:13-14)

This is a really key phrase. One of the things the Spirit does, poured out into the hearts of disciples, is increase our capacity to glorify Jesus. He increases our understanding of who God is and, in some ways, even, as importantly, who we are in relation to God. And understanding that truth creates a space for us to recognize how much we need to worship God. And then, the beautiful part is that the Spirit then infuses our worship, and is a Spirit welling up within us to cry out praises to God. But we'll talk more about that in a minute.

"...for he will take what is mine and he will declare it to you." (John 16:14) So, in this moment, with His disciples, Jesus is saying, it's actually better that -- and, you know, He has foretold His death and He's foretold His resurrection, and He's saying, once these things happen, this is all part of the divine plan of God. For what purpose? Lots of purposes: freedom from sin, breaking the hold of sin and death over all humanity, taking the things that are rightfully ours through our sin, and taking them to the cross, and taking them to the grave, and then, through the power of the Holy Spirit, bringing them out of the grave, breaking the power of death so that all men now have hope in Jesus Christ for what is to come: a salvation that is now offered to us.

And part of what He's teaching His disciples now is, this salvation is in the promise of the Father. This salvation is in the down payment of our inheritance. And what is that down payment? The Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is now poured out on those who have faith, who repent, who believe, who are baptized, and then receive this living Life, this divine Life that the chains of death could not hold Jesus down because of this Spirit, Who's now

available to us. An incredibly radical, incredibly beautiful plan of God: it's actually better for us that Jesus, in his physical form, in this scenario, ascends to the Father, so that the Spirit that draws Him into heaven, the Spirit that unites the Father and the Son, is now in us! Through faith, through baptism, through repentance, right?

And just so you know that this isn't my idea, let's turn to Romans. Romans 8:11: "If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit who dwells in you." What does the Spirit do? The Spirit brings life. And this life is accessible to us because of the death and resurrection of Jesus. Through His death on the cross, through His resurrection, He has won for us the power to experience the same. That even though our mortal bodies will die, our souls will rise with Christ through faith. Because why? Because, through the Spirit, we are no longer slaves, but sons. Romans 8 goes a little farther: "But if you live by the Spirit of God you are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into [sin], but...[the] spirit [through] which we cry, 'Abba! Father!' " And so the sons of God, just like the Son of God, Jesus Himself, through death, rises again. So what does the Holy Spirit do for us? Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, He gives us divine life.

What does Pentecost Tell us About Evangelization?

What does Pentecost tell us about evangelization? Well, what is evangelization, right? It's the making of disciples born out of the Great Commission at the end of the gospels... [It's] where Jesus in another dramatic fashion maybe "surprises" his disciples when he gives them the Great Commission. He brings them to that high place and he says, okay, "all authority in Heaven and Earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations." (Matthew 28:18-19) He says, this job of building the kingdom, this job of establishing the Church, this job of helping people be free of sin and walking a new life with Me...you're going to do it.

And then he does kind of a classic hurry-up-and-wait where he says, you're going to do it, but not yet. He says, wait in the city, wait and pray, until you receive power from on high, and then you'll be My witnesses, and then you'll start to evangelize. So what do the disciples do? Well, they're good disciples! They do what they're told! They go to the city, they wait, and they pray! And if you read the beginning of Acts...you know, in almost every homily I have ever heard on Pentecost, it was talked about how scared they were in the Upper Room. Well, we don't really know. It says nothing about their mental state in the beginning of Acts. It just says they were doing what they were told. They were waiting and they were praying and they were open! They were open. And they knew they had a mission...until some of them were probably taking stock of their resources: do we have any money? No. Do we have any influence? No. Do we have any seminaries? What's a seminary? I don't know! They don't have a plan. But they have the Father, they have the Holy Spirit, they have each other, they have the beginnings of the Sacraments, and they have this mandate to "make disciples," but not yet until they receive power.

So what does Pentecost tell us about evangelization? It tells us what is necessary for evangelization to be fruitful. Until the moment of Pentecost, even though the apostles had walked with Jesus, they had seen his miracles, they'd even had little moments, right? They had been sent out earlier in the gospel to go out and preach the Kingdom of Heaven... So they have done a little bit, but it is not until this infusion of divine power -- that is not accessible to them because of the death and resurrection of Jesus, but now that he sits at the right hand of the Father, He pours out his Spirit on his disciples on Pentecost -- becomes the fuel by which this missionary effort can happen. And so you see a guy like Peter, who's all over the place in the Gospel, filled with Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, and launched out of the Upper Room. And it's important to recognize what he says because it also ties into, what is evangelization?

Evangelization is the making of disciples but to make a disciple means conversion, bringing about a faith that is total and radical, a personal decision to follow the teachings of the life and the promises of Jesus. And so what Peter does, once filled with the Holy Spirit, is he launches out of the Upper Room and gives this dramatic this homily, this dramatic message, that -- side line -- is the first time the Pope publicly declares something on matters of faith and morals, which we know means it's infallible. So it's important to read this message.

And what Peter does is he frames what's happening. He says, this has been foretold. He talks about how Jesus died. He talks about this "Jesus whom you crucified" but this is where evangelization really hits the mark, at the end, where he says, "let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified." (Acts 2:36) So what are we hearing there? That at the heart of evangelization is a message. That this Jesus, whom we crucified with our sins, is Lord, He's in charge of everything, and He's Christ! He's the only one and He offers both His Lordship, His ability to walk into the kingdom of heaven, and his anointing on us for those who believe. And this is, again, a beautiful moment of evangelization, because the way Peter preaches elicits a response, just like we should -- with our lives and our words -- elicit a response, a "decision point."

So what did they say? When they heard this, the crowds who, literally, like 10 verses earlier are thinking, these people are drunk! They're mocking them. About 10 verses later, they're saying, "when they heard this, they were cut to the heart" (Acts 2:37), and they said to Peter and the rest of the Apostles, "brethren, what shall we do?" Wouldn't it be beautiful if we preached in our words or actions in such a way that the people we interacted with asked us, what should we do about this? What should we do? And then we cannot ignore what Peter said next, because it's at the very heart of what it means to make a disciple. If someone asks you what should you do, this is the response: "repent and be baptized, every one of you!" (Acts 2:38) Why? "For the forgiveness of your sins and so you shall receive power of the Holy Spirit." The gift of the Holy Spirit.

What evangelization is about is entering into people's worlds filled with the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim a message, a story, a moment of what Jesus has done for us and in such a way that causes people to have to decide whether they believe or they don't believe. And if they want to believe, what marks belief is repentance, baptism, and then an endowment of the Holy Spirit as well, this supernatural act of grace, this power to live it, as well. So what does Pentecost tell us about evangelization? It tells us a message, it tells us a method, and maybe most importantly, it tells us what is the power source necessary to see it work.

What is a "New Pentecost"?

What is a new Pentecost? Before the Second Vatican Council, John XXIII invited the entire Church to pray for a new Pentecost, which was a dramatic thing to do, because he was noticing something in the Church where the structure, the "bones" of the Church were there and there was life in different pockets and in different movements, but what the pope was identifying was that this "beating heart," this life source that provides movement to the institution was either lacking or needed to be rediscovered. And boy, did that prayer get answered over the last 100 years, over the last 50 years. We have seen the Holy Spirit just infuse the Church with what the Holy Spirit loves to infuse the Church with, which is movement, passion, fire, insight, conviction.

And so what is a new Pentecost? Well, it ties into this call that we've heard over and over again for the New Evangelization. It only makes sense that if the Lord is calling us to renew our commitment to his commission to "go make disciples of all nations," then He would [also] renew the power source necessary to see that accomplished. And so at a fundamental level what a new Pentecost is, is each individual Catholic laying 'hold of and -- maybe better put -- releasing the power that is within us by nature of our Baptism and Confirmation. Because of our Baptism and because of

our Confirmation, the Holy Spirit, the Divine third person of the Trinity, is in US, is infused in our life. But we often live kind of in a dormant state with the Spirit, where the Spirit is there but we are not cooperating with the power that is ours because of this reality.

And so a new Pentecost is being like the first apostles, being in a posture of being open and saying, Holy Spirit, whatever you want to do with me, I'm open to it, even if it's a little strange, even if it's a little bizarre, even if I'm a little uncomfortable, even if it gets me moving, even if it means that I actually start to engage in the New Evangelization. It's a simple thing to do, but one of my favorite prayers is just, "Come, Holy Spirit." It's three words. It's like a text message to Jesus. Just "Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit! Come, Holy Spirit!" And it's a prayer that He loves to answer.

And the thing is, you'll know when the Holy Spirit is becoming more active in your life by some markers that the Scriptures lay out for us. One of them is, you will have a renewed conviction about the lordship of Christ. You will recognize who He is and who you are in relation to that. You will have a deeper understanding and experience of the Father's Love. Whatever your relationship is like with your earthly father, whether you believe you're loved, whether you feel like you're too dirty or not, or whatever it is that you come to the Father with, the Holy Spirit is the one who transforms our hearts and softens our hearts. He gives us a new heart to receive the Father's Love.

Another thing is, the Scriptures are going to come alive. The Scriptures are "the sword of the Spirit." When we read the Scriptures [while we are] infused with "Pentecost," all of a sudden two words that we maybe have read many, many times will become new and fresh and life-giving. Another thing that's it is going to do is, you're going to develop a heart for the lost. The Spirit has launched out onto the Earth to bring all men back to the Father through Jesus Christ. The Spirit is the one who bears witness to who Jesus is, and so when we are living with that Spirit released and unleashed in us, we want to look for opportunities. We want to talk about Jesus. We want to celebrate Him and we want to invite others into that.

So a new Pentecost is essential for a New Evangelization, because it is just like the first one: the first evangelization required the first Pentecost. And the beautiful thing is, I heard -- I can't remember where I got this quote from, but somebody said -- "the seeds of revival are planted in every baptized heart." The power source we need to not only live a life of holiness, but to live a life that makes disciples, is already within us if we cooperate with it. So my invitation to you today would be, let's not try to "drum up" the Spirit or kind of "manufacture" passion. Let's just be like the Apostles: enter into an upper room, be open, be praying, and receive and cooperate with whatever the power source, the Lord, wants to give us.

How do we learn to listen to and act on the promptings of the Holy Spirit?

It's an important question because we can talk about Pentecost, and we can talk about the fact that the Holy Spirit is already within you, already operating already calling you to holiness, already creating environments and opportunities for for you to spread the good word and to be a witness to the world, but if we don't know how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit -- and, in this case, listen to the Holy Spirit -- and then act, what are we really talking about, right?

I liked how this question was phrased, because it's important that it's not just listen. We listen and act. There's a there's a time of listening, and hearing what God wants you to do, and then acting on it. One of my favorite definitions of a disciple is asking two questions: what is God saying to you? And what are you doing about it? And, in some ways, "What is God saying to you?" and "What are you doing about it?" is completely within the stream of the Holy Spirit. The Lord is going to speak to you through the power of the Holy Spirit and then going to empower you to do something about it in the power of the Holy Spirit.

So I've got three tips, and I'm going to warn you, these are not, like, super duper theological. Sometimes, I think the basics are more important than the really deep stuff. Just remembering the fundamentals is really important in this. So the first thing is, and this one applies mostly to the listening, if you're in a position of saying, "I just don't hear God speak to me, alright? I don't know what God sounds like. A voice in heaven hasn't opened up and said, 'This is my beloved Son,' this hasn't happened. How do I know when God is speaking to me?" My first question to you is always -- anyone I ever encounter like this -- is, "How often do you read Scripture?"

How often are you actually reading the word of God? He wrote a book for us. In the book, we actually can experience His style, His manner, His language, who He is, what He says, how He interacts in all sorts of different situations. And so, one of the best ways, very practically, to begin to listen to the Holy Spirit, is spend time every single day reading Scripture. And here's how I'd like you to do it: read until something in you goes, "Ooh, that's different." Like something inspires you. And sit with that, and listen to that, and pour over that little moment. Because it's in that little "Umph," that's often when the Holy Spirit is talking. So the first one is Sacred Scripture.

The second thing, and this is going to be uncomfortable for some of you, but one of the best ways to know if the Spirit's talking to you is, when you have a sense that He might be saying something, you test it. Scripture says this: "Do not despise prophecy; test everything, and hold fast to what is good." (1 Thessalonians 5:20-21) So often, we know that it's the Spirit by the fruit that is born by acting on it. And we often don't know if it's the Spirit or not because we never act on it! So, if you're in a situation where you're feeling like, "Is this the Spirit? Is this not the Spirit?" Let's be bold! Let's be okay with a little bit of failure every once in a while, let's be okay with a little bit of, "No, that wasn't it." Or, "That was a little off topic." And then, be open to fraternal correction, be open to walking back, and being humble enough to say, "I'm so desiring to live in the power of the Holy Spirit, and follow His promptings, that even when I stumble a little bit, or even when I'm a little fleshly, I'm going to just keep doing it." So the second tip is just, like, trial and error goes a long way.

And then third tip: the Holy Spirit often speaks to other people for you. So companionship is essential to hearing and acting on the power of the Holy Spirit. I mean, even for the apostles at Pentecost, they were together, they were all in one place together. And when the Spirit came out, they could co-experience what was going on and inspire each other. So to be able to have other people in your life who are also trying to listen and act creates environments where, I'm listening to something and encouraging you to act, you're listening to Him and encouraging me to act, and now, the next thing you know, we're going together.

All three of these things were made clear to me in one of my men's groups I had not too long ago. We committed to reading scripture together and we also committed to two other things. One was, every morning, the first thing we did in the morning, we'd say, "Come Holy Spirit." And every time we got together as a men's group, we had to report on one opportunity, one moment where we heard the Holy Spirit and we acted on it in an evangelistic way. And you never wanted to be the guy who didn't have a story, right? You didn't want to come to men's group and be like, "Yeah, I didn't do it, guys." Because then everyone would jump on you and be like, "Come on, let's do this thing." So it was a Thursday morning, men's group was that night, I wake up, I say, "Come, Holy Spirit," and realize, I don't have a story. I haven't tried to share the gospel once in the past week. And I'm looking at my schedule and going, "It's not going to happen, but we'll just see what happens." So I go to the bank at 10:30 in the morning, I walk up to the teller, the teller says, "Hey, going to work a little late today?" And I say, in my head, "That's kind of a strange question, what if I didn't have a job?" But what I heard in that moment was a little prompting of the Holy Spirit, saying, "Tell her what you do." So I said, "Well, this is what I do." And I just poured out my work life, which is a ministry life, and she's kind of like, "Oh my gosh!" And then she goes, "Well, I'm a Christian too!" I said, "Great, tell me about that." And then a whole bunch of people came into the bank, and I couldn't follow up on it.

But the point was, in that moment, I was open to the power of the Holy Spirit, I had brothers who were supporting me, I'd been reading the Scriptures, and when I was faced with the moment when the Spirit moved on my heart, I could act on it. So today, let's start to read Scripture, let's start the trial and error when the Holy Spirit moves on our heart, and find other people who want to do it with you.

How do we partner with Our Lady in bringing Jesus to others?

This is an important question. It's true and clear throughout Scripture and then throughout the rest of the history of the Church that Our Lady has been commissioned by her Son to be involved in the evangelization efforts of the Church. Even from the moment that the Church is born, she's there in the upper room! She, who is the spouse of the Holy Spirit, is intimately involved with the Church's mandate. So it's really important that we don't just consider her this optional extra on the side that we occasionally call in off the bench when we need extra help, but an arm-in-arm partner in this effort to go out and bring souls to Jesus. She exists, she lives, to see people love her Son. She exists, she lives, to draw people into worship of her Son. She, who knows Him more intimately than all others, is preoccupied with others entering into that relationship as well.

So I'm going to give you four concrete ways, details, tips, for how to invite Mary into our evangelistic efforts. The first one is the rosary. What a weapon we have that we all know! Because if you've been around the Catholic Church, or around Catholic people, or a little old Catholic lady, you see the rosary. But seeing the rosary in two different ways: both as a school of grace and as a school of the gospel, where we, in meditating on her life and her life with her son, receive a clearer understanding of what the gospel message is, what the narrative is that we're a part of. And then secondly, using it as a weapon against the evil one in the strongholds that we are going to face. When we enter into the world, we should not be surprised at suffering, at sin, at brokenness, and an enemy that does not want to see us succeed. And we have so many trump cards, but she is one of our ultimate trump cards. She is the one who crushes the serpent's head. And this is this tool that we have, this rosary, this weapon, it's something that she has given us and told us, "Pray the rosary!" She says it every time she reveals herself, at every apparition, it seems like, is, "Pray the rosary. Pray the rosary for the salvation of souls. Pray the rosary to overcome the evil one." So let's commit ourselves for two reasons: one, to deeper understand the life of Jesus and the life of His mother, but then also to have this weapon in the battle that we will be fighting.

The second one is, and I'm not going to elaborate too much, because I don't have time on this, but I would really encourage you to read the messages of Mary from Our Lady of Fatima. For what we're up against in this time and place, which she revealed to children, three little children, is powerful. In our pursuit of understanding God's mind and heart for this generation of people, she revealed it to children! Because she knew it was simple and understandable, and yet deeply profound. And so often, we overcomplicate things. We try to think of all these different angles, and out of the mouths of babes is sometimes what the Lord wants from us. "Unless you become like a little child, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:3) So there's a way that, in Mary's experience at Fatima, she really gives us an image of both who is responsible for bearing the Good News, and the messages she gave to the children are profound for what we're up against right now.

Another thing I would invite you to do is, every time you're about to do anything with Jesus, any time you're about to do any sort of evangelistic work, pray to her. Ask for her intercession. Because what she loves about that is, where two or three are gathered, Jesus is there. Well, she wants to be wherever Jesus is. So if you invite her into that environment as well, and help her prayers be conformed to our prayers, to be brought to the Son, they just are increased in power. So whether it's a Hail Mary before you begin, or a whole rosary, or whatever you want to pray – I mean, there's so many prayers to Our Lady, it's ridiculous. You can figure out any of them, they all work, she loves all those prayers. And the

other thing we have to remember is, she loves to glorify her Son. So she loves the invitation to pray with us because she longs for, she lives for, the glory and the majesty and the praise of her Son.

And then the fourth one is another really practical one, but having extra rosaries or extra miraculous medals to just give to people as little gifts. And let the power and the grace that comes with those gifts, and is represented by those physical objects, do its work.

My grandpa was a dentist, and he started doing something at the Ann Arbor Art Fair years and years ago, decades ago, where he would just set up a booth and he would just give out rosaries. Just give out rosaries – rosary after rosary after rosary. And I used to do it with him, I'd have to set him up. I always liked to set up the booth because we'd always get a free dinner out of it, but we'd go and we'd just hand out rosaries.

And you'd be amazed at the number of people who, A, had no idea what it was, and B, who, once you explained it a little bit, or those who did know what it was, but had fallen away from the Lord for a long time – this simple gift, a gift that actually had power, because there's grace in that gift, these blessed rosaries have power in them, transforms lives. And the thing is, you don't necessarily always see it in the moment, but the trickle down of grace, that little stone in the pond, the ripple out of grace that happens when believers actually believe, and act on it, and invite Our Lady into it, we'll find out when we enter into eternity, and I can't wait to find out.

So those are just a few tips for why including Our Lady is not an optional extra to this evangelistic work, but is something that is a cornerstone, a foundational piece, for this to be as fruitful as Jesus desires it to be.

Final Thoughts

Sometimes evangelization, the making of disciples, the going out into the world to proclaim the Good News, feels difficult, overwhelming, maybe a little intimidating. Maybe there are people in your life that you've built up a lot of good relational capital, and you don't know if you want to spend it yet, or you're afraid of offending people, or afraid of what might happen when Jesus enters the scene. I just want to give you a quick story about why it's really worth it and why the full gospel message is worth it – not just the fun stuff, but a full understanding. Why is the Good News good news? Because there's also the death problem, that comes from the sin problem, and that there is a heaven and a hell, and that the Lord, in His mercy and in His love, does judge, and at the end of time, there will be wheat, and there will be weeds. And all of this is very real, and very true, and all of it's born out of a God who just desperately loves us. And so the whole message is still inspiring for people, it still works, when it's delivered with love, when it's delivered with friendship, and it's delivered in its entirety.

So part of what we've done is, we decided to do different things to try to evangelize those who are far from God. And we started doing this program where we'd have people come over to our house, we'd have dinner, we'd watch a talk, and we'd discuss it. And midway through this particular session, we had a couple guys who were very, very far from God, who would self-identify that way. And one guy in particular who just didn't even talk hardly at all. He would come and eat our food, and he'd watch the video, and during the discussion he'd basically say nothing. And we thought, "Well, okay, well he's here I guess." And his sister had brought him. But the second week he brought his friend, which made us think, "Oh, maybe something's happening here."

So six weeks in, we do this little retreat weekend, where, at the end of one of the talks is an invitation to give your life to Jesus. So let me set the stage for you. It's two o'clock on a Saturday afternoon in my ugly basement. Nothing about these circumstances says "Conversion Moment," right? A lot of times we think it has to be on a Saturday night with the lights dim and incense floating in the background – nope, nothing about that. And there's just a few of us in the basement, and

my buddy's on the guitar, and he says, "Okay, we're going to just give you an opportunity to see if God is real and if you want to give him a chance. So if you'll stand up and open your hands, we'll just pray a little bit." So I'm standing behind him, just dying a thousand deaths, because I'm like, "This isn't working, nothing's going to happen, nothing's happening," just calling on the Holy Spirit, just like, "Come on Holy Spirit," the only One. He's the principal agent of evangelization, He's the One who convicts hearts, He's the One who helps people actually say, "Jesus is Lord," so I'm just saying, "Come on, Holy Spirit, get 'em! Get 'em! Get 'em!"

So Joey's on the guitar, he starts to sing, and I'm watching these guys from behind, and all of a sudden, the big guy, Miguel, who was really the one who hadn't talked at all, I'm looking at him, and all of a sudden I just see his shoulders shaking, and I glance around him, and his eyes are closed, and he's just weeping. Just weeping, weeping, weeping. The conviction of God was coming upon him, the Holy Spirit was working on him. Then I glanced over, and his buddy, who head brought, it also weeping. And the other girl, who was also kind of far from God, I couldn't even find her, I didn't know where she went, she had curled up in the corner, and she was just getting wrecked by the Holy Spirit.

And Joey and I had basically done nothing. We had just set a circumstance, set an environment, asked the Holy Spirit to work, entered into relationships with these people, had, through the videos and the discussions, unpacked the gospel, and presented it to them, and then brought them to a decision point: do you want it or not? And the Holy Spirit responded.

Fast forward. Miguel goes back to Confession, he's back to Mass, he's playing music at Mass now, he helped us with multiple other sessions of this thing, and he's a disciple. He's not only a disciple, he's a missionary disciple. He's bringing others to it. So I just wanted to share that with you because, so often, we think it's all about us, or it's all on us to make this work, and yes, we participate in God's work, but it's the Holy Spirit working through us, and it's just us cooperating with His plan. It means we need to be bold, it means we need to present the whole gospel, it absolutely means we need to bring people to a decision point, but it all needs to be infused with the power of the Holy Spirit. And when that happens, lives are changed. When that happens, the kingdom still breaks through. When that happens, people still believe. The Gospel still works.

So let's pray. In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen. Lord Jesus, I thank You for Your love. I thank You for Your death and resurrection, and I thank You so much for the gift of Your Spirit that You pour out on us, for all those who want it. And Lord, I pray right now for every single person who is watching this video, that a deeper understanding, conviction, and cooperation with the Spirit would come upon our lives. That we would be infused with a deeper, supernatural power to live as Your disciples. To grow in holiness, but also to go and make disciples. And whatever fear, we ask You to cast out in the power of Your Holy Spirit, and give us the courage to go out and proclaim the Good News of the gospel and to make disciples. Amen.

Practical Activity

Come Holy Spirit! It's time to ask the Lord to renew the gift of the Holy Spirit within you. We want you to build a more active relationship with the Holy Spirit, trusting in the Lord's promise to give you His Spirit and make you a witness and a saint. So visit a church or an adoration chapel and ask the Lord in your own words to pour out upon you anew the gift of His Holy Spirit. Don't only ask Him for an increase of the Spirit, but tell him why you want an increase. Your prayer might be long or short, but let it be from your heart. Include that same request in your daily prayers for the next eight days, and wait for an answer to your prayer.

What is the Lord saying? Do you notice anything different about your spiritual life? A renewed conviction of the Lordship of Jesus? Or a deeper understanding of the Father's love? A greater humility or courage in you? A new experience in

reading the Sacred Scriptures? A greater heart for the salvation of others? A new inspiration or insight? A new awareness of your sinfulness and need for repentance? Or something else?

Recalling what you've learned from this lesson, act upon a good inspiration that you may have received from the Holy Spirit, or put into practice something else that you've learned from this lesson.

