

“You Will Receive Power”



But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

(Acts 1:8)

Advent Retreat

Fr. James Northrop

December 10-12, 2021

Archbishop Brunet Retreat Center at the Palisades

www.thegraceofpentecost.com

Get Empowered!

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you.

(John 14:15-20)

Power From On High

Now in regard to spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be unaware. You know how, when you were pagans, you were constantly attracted and led away to mute idols. Therefore, I tell you that nobody speaking by the spirit of God says, “Jesus be accursed.” And no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the holy Spirit.

(1 Corinthians 12:1-3)

Boldness

Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them, “You who are Jews, indeed all of you staying in Jerusalem. Let this be known to you, and listen to my words. These people are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘It will come to pass in the last days,’ God says, ‘that I will pour out a portion of my spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. Indeed, upon my servants and my handmaids I will pour out a portion of my spirit in those days, and they shall prophesy. And I will work wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below: blood, fire, and a cloud of smoke. The sun shall be turned to darkness, and the moon to blood, before the coming of the great and splendid day of the Lord, and it shall be that everyone shall be saved who calls on the name of the Lord.’

Understanding the Generosity of the Lord

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you would hand his son a snake when he asks for a fish? Or hand him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

(Luke 11:9-13)

In Summary

- *As the challenges we face increase so will God's grace. We simply must be humble and docile and ask with an expectant faith for a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.*
- *We have plenty of evidence in Scripture and in the lives of the Saints that God is faithful and will provide.*
- *We are part of a bigger story. We must pray, discern, and take the next right step.
(Cardinal Francis Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan's beautiful example)*

From “Live Not By Lies”

We serve a God who created all things for a purpose. He has shown us in the Bible, especially the Gospels, who we are and how we are to live to be in harmony with the sacred order he created. He does not want admirers; he wants followers. As Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God suffered with humanity to redeem humanity. He calls us to share in his Passion, for our sake and the sake of the world. He promises us nothing but the cross. Not happiness but the joy of blessedness. Not material wealth but richness of spirit. Not sexual freedom as erotic abandon but sexual freedom within loving, mutually sacrificial commitment. Not power but love; not self-sovereignty but obedience. This is the uncompromising rival religion that the post-Christian world will not long tolerate. If you are not rock solid in your commitment to traditional Christianity, then the world will break you. But if you are, then this is the solid rock upon which that world will be broken. And if those solid rocks are joined together, they form a wall of solidarity that is very hard for the enemy to breach.

Dreher, Rod. Live Not by Lies (pp. 162-164). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.

Practical Considerations

- ✿ *“What goes into a mind comes out in a life.” Moderate exposure to news, taking in things that glorify God and nurture our souls. (Angelus December 8, 2009 Handout)*
- ✿ *More praise in our prayer lives...allowing prayer to be guided by the Holy Spirit.*
- ✿ *Openness to the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the building up of the Body of Christ.*

Watch This Excellent Presentation!!

*Fr. Bill Watson's, Sſ Presentation at the 2021 Napa Institute
"The Great Darkness and The Great Awakening"*

<https://youtu.be/iARFXtXRDNk>



“Upon This Rock”

Sandi Patty

*When others see with earthly eyes
Just what they want to see
You will see the things that never die
You will know and recognize
By simple child-like faith
The priceless truth
Others will deny
When others say I'm just a man
Who'd like to dream His dreams
When others call a miracle a myth
You'll listen for eternity
In moments as they pass
And see with spirit eyes
What others miss*

*(Chorus) Upon this Rock
I'll build my kingdom
And on this Rock forever and ever it shall
stand
And all the powers of hell itself
Shall never more prevail against it
For Satan's thrones are built on sinking
sand
Upon this Rock I'll build my kingdom
And on this Rock forever and ever it shall
stand
Upon this Rock of revelation
I'll build a strong and mighty nation
And it shall stand the storms of time*

Upon this Rock

*If in a simple carpenter
You see the Son of God
If you would choose to lose
When you could win
If you would give your life away
For nothing in return
Then you are where
My kingdom will begin*

(Chorus)