

Today is Pentecost and on this day, we celebrate or recognize two things. First we recognize the fulfillment of a promise. Before ascending to heaven, Jesus promised to send us an advocate, somebody who would always be with us so that we would never have to go through life alone.

I was talking with somebody this past week about how we are never left alone to travel our journey called life, especially as we are dying. Jesus knew how difficult of a task that would have been so he promised to send somebody who would always be there for us. At the time, the disciples probably did not understand what all was going on,

They knew that Jesus had promised to send an advocate but they did not know what to expect in that advocate. So on that first Pentecost Sunday, there was a noise as in a loud wind blowing throughout the house in which they were in. And then tongues of flame dance above each of the apostle's head. The Spirit of God had descended upon them. The promise that Jesus had made about sending the advocate had been fulfilled.

So what is the point of the advocate? How does having the Holy Spirit change our lives?

First off, we are never alone because God's Spirit lives in our heart. No matter what is going on in each of our lives, the Holy Spirit is also there, walking with us through whatever is in our midst.

Often times we hear people giving prayers of thanks to Jesus for helping them through something in life. In reality, it is the Holy Spirit who is helping them because that is who Jesus sent to us to guide us through this life. Yes Jesus sent the Spirit, but it is the Spirit who is with us right now.

The other thing we received on that first Pentecost is the ability to give witness. The Spirit allowed the apostle's to proclaim the gospel to all of the people in their own individual language. Today's reading from Acts is one that not many people are real excited about getting because it lists all of the different people who heard the gospel in their own language. This is called speaking in tongues.

I do believe that there are people who do have this gift but I am not one. When it comes to speaking in tongues, I believe you need two parts. First you need somebody who is doing the speaking and second, you need somebody who understands what is being said.

Speaking in tongues has one purpose and that is to proclaim the gospel. That's it. If the gospel is not proclaimed in a way that it is understood by somebody who hears it, then it is not speaking in tongues.

I don't think there is anybody here who speaks in tongues but we can still proclaim the gospel which is the real purpose of this day. And so I want to conclude this message by passing around the mic so that you can proclaim who Jesus is or what God has done for you.