

JULY, 2017

Sir Knights:

To begin with this month, a word of apology with regards to my prior article, as I made a factual error in attribution regarding the Book of Acts. This book is not from the pen of “Paul”, as I had mentioned, but rather from the author known to us as “Luke”. An easy mistake to make, given the focus in Acts on Paul’s early ministry and the book’s overall attempt to legitimize Paul as an “Apostle without portfolio”, but maxima mea culpa all the same. Once electrons leave the computer across the Web, they are hard to gather back in...

So, too, with the Spirit – or at least one hopes. This part of the Trinity is perhaps the hardest one for us in the 21st century to come to terms with. We say things like “That preacher was really in the Spirit today” when we hear a great sermon, but unless we are actually moved – or resonate – in some way other than admiration, is that truly so? Perhaps all it took was a lot of practice to polish a delivery that made things sound exciting in a worldly sense. In a day or so, the “performance” is forgotten, and we go back to being right back where we were before – and waiting for the next time we hear something we like. Is that really being “in the Spirit”?

For the preacher, maybe so, for as we are told in Matthew:

¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak;²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you. (Matthew 10:19-20)

I have heard a couple of preachers in my time who occasionally qualified – no notes beyond the Scriptures, no obvious plan at the outset, just a sincere devotion and willingness to let the Spirit speak through them. They channeled the Spirit, but far too

often, those to whom they spoke failed to resonate, failed to grasp what was being communicated and the gift of the Spirit never took root among those to whom it was being offered. They weren’t ready.

The story of Pentacost is the same. Jesus did not permit the Spirit to be granted to the Disciples at Ascension, which would have been most logical, precisely because they were not ready to accept it. They had to still prove themselves, they had to be “...all of one accord, in one place.” (Acts 2:1) The Disciples had to come around to being wholly receptive before the message they were to transmit would change not only themselves, but would be understood by all Mankind.

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance....⁶ And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.” (Acts 2:2-4,6)

While God the Father gave us life, and God the Son lives for us, God the Spirit lives through us. Be ready. Take it in, allow it to change you, then pass it on and hopefully change others for the better.

Soli Deo Gloria!



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