

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 5

Law/Gospel

I sin when I believe that I can understand and trust in God on my own. **By the power and work of the Holy Spirit through His Word, the Spirit grants me faith in Jesus and empowers me to will and do that which is good and God pleasing.**

From the catechism The Third Article of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

What does this mean?

I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.

In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers.

On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

God Sends the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1–21

Jews living in other nations came to Jerusalem for annual Passover and Pentecost festivals, fifty days apart. Because of travel time and cost, people often stayed for both festivals. This means that many witnesses of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection during Passover in AD 33 also experienced the birth of the Christian Church at Pentecost.

Before Jesus ascended, He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. Ten days later, on Pentecost, Jesus' disciples were all together in one place when God fulfilled His promise.

The Holy Spirit arrived with the sound of a powerful rushing wind. Divided tongues as of fire appeared and rested on each disciple, and they began to speak in languages they had not studied. Jewish pilgrims heard God's Word in their own languages, a gift of the Holy Spirit.

The hearers felt amazed and perplexed. What did this mean? Some mockingly accused the disciples of drinking too much wine.

Peter stood and denied drunkenness. He quoted God's promise through the prophet Joel to pour out God's Spirit on His people.

Then Peter said, "Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it" (Acts 2:22–24).

When the people asked what they should do, Peter said, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). About 3,000 people were baptized that day.

Today, the Holy Spirit still works through God's Word and Sacraments to deliver the benefits of Jesus' perfect life, death, and resurrection—faith, forgiveness of sins, new life, and salvation.

Prayer

Lord God, give us a burning desire to receive Your grace through faith in Christ Jesus, our Savior. In His name we pray. Amen.

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