

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PENTECOST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

At His Ascension, Our Lord instructed His followers to stay in Jerusalem “unto you are clothed with power from on high.” This was in reference to the Holy Spirit, Who had been promised to be sent. The Lord’s instructions were followed. This first Christian group, numbering some 120 persons including the Holy Virgin and the Apostles, gathered in a room each day and all “with one accord devoted themselves to prayer.”

This was done for 10 days. On that 10th day, the 50th day after Christ’s Resurrection, the Holy Spirit came. It was Pentecost, the Old Testament feastday. The Book of Acts tells what happened: “Suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled the house . . . And there appeared tongues as of fire, resting on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit . . .”

The holy city was packed with people for the feastday. Because of the sound of the wind, a multitude quickly gathered. Amazingly, the strangers heard the disciples speaking in their own different languages.

The Apostle Peter, renewed in faith and vigor, spoke to the throng as he had never spoken before. He spoke of Jesus of Nazareth Who had been put to death, but Who had risen from the grave. The preaching had a profound impact on the crowd. They were moved by the message, and some 3,000 people were added to the Christian ranks that day.

But the Descent of the Holy Spirit is not just a relic of the past. There is always an outpouring of the Spirit where believers gather in anticipation and in prayer, beseeching His coming. Pray that He might come and abide in us and save our souls.