



HOLY SPIRIT,

Helper Of All Christians

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Fifty days after Jesus's resurrection, the first Pentecost occurred. It is called 'the birthday of the Church' because the Holy Spirit descended upon Mother Mary and the Apostles and filled them with his gifts. Through their preaching, three thousand people were baptised that day. Christianity was officially inaugurated on earth!

Pentecost is also the feast of the Holy Spirit. Though the presence and works of the Holy Spirit are across the Bible, his clear and most evident intervention occurs on Pentecost. It is vividly and beautifully narrated in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles (Acts of the Apostles is also known as 'the Gospel of the Holy Spirit').

As a child, I was wonderstruck, even confused by the Holy Spirit. I was familiar with Jesus Christ and could easily grow in intimacy with him. So also with God, the loving Father. But it was not that easy with God the Holy Spirit. I will try to share a few simple and important things about the Holy Spirit that the Holy Bible teaches and that which I learnt from my own experience.

First of all, the Holy Spirit moulds and shapes us according to God's plan. The first verses of the Bible read thus: *In the beginning God created the heaven and the*

earth. The earth was void and formless and darkness covered the face of the deep; and the Spirit of God moved over the waters (Genesis 1:1-2). The word used in the original Hebrew text for *moved* is *was brooding over* (...the Spirit of God was brooding over the waters). We know that brooding is an act of giving birth; it is when the mother bird broods over the eggs for a period of time that new chicks are born. It is when the Spirit of God brooded

over the void and formless earth that the earth took shape and form! So it is still the work of the Holy Spirit that gives form and shape to each species in this universe according to God's plan; to each one of us. It is an amazing work of the Spirit. We can only remain wonderstruck at how he changes and forms people; and also myself!

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To be continued ◉

