

A Cup of Tea

Written by Alison Dickey

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you."
(John 14:26)

The Holy Spirit came as a violent wind on Pentecost with tongues of fire settling on the disciples. They were filled by the Spirit, equipped with language and understanding beyond human ability. (See Acts 2:1-13.) From that day on, believers have received the Spirit by faith in Jesus as Savior. *"But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him"* (Romans 8:9).

Jesus taught in Matthew 6:22-23, *"The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light; but if your eye is unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"* In last Sunday's sermon, Dr. Renwick explained that Jesus is warning us that we may not see things as clearly as we think we do. Darkness can enter without warning or awareness. Dr. Renwick preached the power of the Holy Spirit to "prick our consciences in the way that God wants our consciences to be pricked."

Pentecost came with different flames this year. Flames fanned by despair, injustice, sin, isolation and exhaustion.

Is our eye unhealthy? We may think we aren't part of the problems of racism and injustice, but we should ask God for true wisdom and understanding. The Spirit will *"guide (us) into all truth"* (John 16:13).

Has the Spirit pricked our conscience to act? As believers in Jesus Christ we are called to first lay everything before the Lord. He alone should guide our words and deeds. (Proverbs 3:5-6, Psalm 32:8).

Did our now-interrupted routines of relatively peaceful and productive lives lead us into ignorance and complacency? We can ask God to reveal His priorities and open our eyes to a hurting world. By the Spirit, we can know Him better and begin to understand the will of God (1 Corinthians 2:10-16).

Did we "pass by on the other side" instead of being a neighbor? (See Luke 10:25-37.) We want to help and to heal, but we must first ask the Lord for wisdom and direction so that it's His work and not ours. The Spirit will enable us to bear His fruit (Galatians 5:22-23) and equip us with gifts and power to serve in His name (Acts 1:8, 1 Corinthians 12:7-11).

We must ask the Holy Spirit to search and convict us, leading as He would have us go. Our words and understanding may fail. We may not know how to start. That's exactly why God gave us the Spirit! *"Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God"* (Romans 8:26-27).

Finally, we have access to power in the name of Jesus and through the Spirit. Timothy 1:7 says, *"...for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline."* This is the power of Steven, filled with the Holy Spirit, as he preached God's truth before being stoned to death (Acts 7) and the power of obedience in our Lord who prayed that the cup might pass from him before submitting to death on the cross (Matthew 26:36-56).

John Piper served as a pastor for over thirty years in Minneapolis. Here are some excerpts from [his recent prayer for Minneapolis*](#):

"...For what have you saved us? Here and now? Open our hearts to hear your answer, Lord: "Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" (Jeremiah 29:7).

- For those who knew George Floyd best and loved him most, bring them your consolation, and direct their hearts to the God of all comfort.
- May our leaders love the truth, seek the truth, stand unflinching for the truth, and act on the truth. Let nothing, O Lord, be swept under the rug. Forbid that any power or privilege would be allowed to twist or distort or conceal the truth, even if the truth brings the privileged, the rich, the powerful, or the poor, from the darkness of wrong into the light of right.
- We pray that our city will see miracles of reconciliation and lasting harmony, rooted in truth and in the paths of righteousness. We pray for peace — the fullest enjoyment of shalom, flowing down from the God of peace, and bought at an infinite price for the brokenhearted followers of the Prince of Peace.
- O Jesus, for this you died! That you might reconcile hopeless, hostile people to God and to each other. You have done it for millions by grace through faith. Do it, Lord Jesus, in Minneapolis, we pray. Amen."

*<https://www.desiringgod.org/articles/the-sorrows-of-minneapolis>