

## May 19, 2024

**This Week:** 9:30 a.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD41Q108)  
6:30 p.m. Pentecost Reading Service

**Next Week:** 9:30 a.m. Reading Service  
6:30 p.m. Catechism Reading Service (LD41Q109)

-All the Lord willing-

**Collections:** Today: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund Next week: 1<sup>st</sup> General Fund  
2<sup>nd</sup> NAGMission\* 2<sup>nd</sup> Alpha Center  
*\*Annual Special Mission Collection for Pentecost Sunday*

### Collections Received in April:

General Fund	\$8486
Emeritus Fund	\$234
Prison Diary	\$166
Disaster Relief	\$162
NAGMission	\$158

### We Remember in Prayer:

-Our widows and lonely ones, prodigal sons and daughters, and those with hidden crosses

## MEDITATIONS

### The Pentecostal Gift

One of the greatest gifts and benefits is the pouring out of the Holy Spirit. This was promised by His Father; Christ's work is rewarded. What is His reward? It is His church, all His own, from Adam until the last which still must be gathered to His flock. He has received His children, and therefore they shall be brought to Him and united with Him. Unto Christ was promised the Holy Spirit, since the Holy Spirit should return the backsliding children to Him. Had not Christ said unto His disciples in John 14:16, "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; even the Spirit of truth?" This "Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach

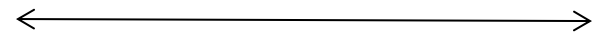
you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

After His ascension, the disciples returned from the Mount of Olives to Jerusalem with great joy, expecting the fulfillment of the promise that the Holy Ghost would come upon them. In obedience they did not depart from Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. How did they tarry there? How did they wait upon the Lord? They all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication.

Are we also waiting in such a manner for the gift of Pentecost? Do we long after the coming and dwelling of the Holy Spirit in our hearts? Or, are we satisfied with our state, which is filled with the spirit of Satan? How poor we all are by nature! By our falling away from God we became synagogues of Satan. May the Lord teach us to continue in prayer and supplication, "Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10).

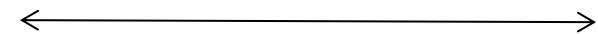
It becomes Pentecost for our hearts when God sends His Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who is the third Person of the Trinity, reveals Himself as Comforter, Teacher, and Leader. What a gift has been given at Pentecost to the disciples! What a benefit for God's children when they may receive the Holy Spirit! Water is poured upon him that is thirsty and floods upon dry ground. The Holy Spirit sent by God from above abides with them as the Comforter and Intercessor in their hearts, and He leads them to their Intercessor in heaven. It is the Spirit whom the world cannot receive because it seeth Him not.

Child of God, may you know Him; "for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17). He is your Comforter, Intercessor, Leader, and Guide, to the glory of a triune God and to your welfare for time and eternity. "He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear."  
~Rev. J. C Westrate



That is spiritual knowledge which alters the relish of the soul; for we must know there is a bitter opposition in our nature against all saving truths; especially, there is a contrariety between our nature and that doctrine which teaches us we must deny ourselves and be saved by another. The soul must relish before it can digest.

~Richard Sibbes



All events are wisely disposed of by the governing care of God's providence. Providence is a servant to God's eternal counsel and purpose. There is no altering the course of providence.

~Matthew Mead

How do we know that we have the Holy Spirit?

From His effects. For just as you do not see the wind but feel its effects, the Holy Spirit too is known by His effects. The most important effects of the Holy Spirit in the children of God are the following:

First, there is believing prayer, child-like confidence, and groanings to our heavenly father. Romans 8[:15] says, "You did not receive a spirit of bondage to fear, but you received a Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, dear Father.'" Note also verses [26, 27]: "Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself intercedes mightily for us, with groanings which cannot be uttered. But he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is. For He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

Second, the hatred of sin and love of righteousness, that is, the struggle against sin, is a sure indication that a person has the Holy Spirit. For flesh and blood has not revealed to us that we should resist sin, since its nature is to continue in sin. But God brings it about through His Holy Spirit, as St. Paul teaches in Romans 7[:5, 6]. Therefore, the struggle against the residual sin that afflicts us should not lead us to despondency but should give us reason for comfort in the face of this sin that brings us one heartache after another, for this struggle in us is a sure indication that we have the Holy Spirit. And if we have the Holy Spirit, we are members of Christ, whose perfect righteousness, obtained for us by His death, cloaks and covers in God's sight the temptation and sins that we continue to struggle against. God neither sees nor remembers them anymore. But so that we continue in this spiritual struggle with true faith, we are assured of victory, as the apostle Paul says, "The good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me" [Rom. 7:19, 20]. And a few verses later [24, 25]: "O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin." He then rounds out the comfort in Romans 8[:1]: "There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit," that is, who in their lives resist the sins of the flesh through the Holy Spirit.

Third, the effects of the Holy Spirit include the confession of Christ and His truth (so that Christ is glorified), thanksgiving, and hope in the help of the Lord. These are clear indications that the Spirit of God lives in one's heart. The holy apostle speaks of confession in Romans 10[:9, 10]: "If you confess Jesus with your mouth, that he is the Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one who believes with the heart becomes righteous and one who confesses with the mouth becomes saved." (For a true, saving faith, through which we have the Holy Spirit and are members of Christ, confesses Christ and is not ashamed of His truth.) He also teaches in 1 Corinthians 12[:3] that "no one can say that Jesus is Lord [that is, say from the heart that he regards Him as Lord in his heart] except by the Holy Spirit." The Scriptures also teach that thanksgiving is a work of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5[:18–21]. Finally, hope is the kind of work of the Holy Spirit from which each person can conclude that he is a child of God and of eternal salvation and that he has the Spirit of adoption and deposit of salvation. This can be gathered from the beautiful promises found in various Psalms, such as "Blessed are all those who hope in him [Christ]," and in Romans 5[:1–5].

# NETHERLANDS REFORMED CONGREGATION

Sioux Falls, SD



*Hear my prayer, O LORD, and let my  
cry come unto thee. Psalm 102:1*

Services at 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 or 6:30 p.m.

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#### Consistory

Elders: Mr. Derek Kattenberg, Mr. Craig Timmer

Deacons: Mr. Norm DeWit, Mr. Rick Rozeboom

#### Contacts

Moderator: Rev. Slingerland, Clerk: [nrcfsd@gmail.com](mailto:nrcfsd@gmail.com)

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