

"SHARING GENTLE BREEZES IN GOD'S GRACE!" - JUNE 4, 2017
PENTECOST SUNDAY - ACTS 2:1-21; JOHN 20:19-23
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Do you ever feel like the wind is always blowing against you? Does it ever feel like a constant battle? How good does it feel when the wind is finally at your back? Today as we celebrate Pentecost, we celebrate the birthday of the Christian Church. The Church begins when the `rush of a violent wind fills the entire house.' The Holy Spirit, the rush of the wind, the very breath of God comes into their midst and blows all else away. As we share the season of spring, as we anticipate, the gentle breezes of summer; we do not need to wait for the Spirit of God and for the gentle breath of God to refresh us, to calm us, to direct us. Let us celebrate the birthday of God's Holy Church, let us serve as God's Holy People and let us be assured and motivated and fulfilled this summer and all our days, as the Spirit of God is the gentle breeze in our midst!

1. The spirit of God is like breath and wind, in the midst of our personal discipleship, and in the midst of God's Holy Church.
 - A. Breath. We need air and breath. We need to breathe. We need the breath of God. John 20:22
 - i. Without air, without the ability to breathe, we would die.
 - ii. Without the breath of God, without the spirit of God in our midst, we would die, so would The Church. Acts 2:17
 - B. The gentle breezes of summer refresh us and give us direction. The Spirit of God is a tough wind to go up against, and it is also a gentle breeze that guides us and renews us. Acts 2:2
 - i. We know how hard it is to work against the wind.
 - ii. It is such a blessing to go forward feeling the wind, feeling the Spirit of God at our backs. John 20:19, 21, 23

iii. We are all looking forward to summer, and yet we all know how weary we can get in the midst of all we do. Acts 2:2; John 20:21

iv. The bottom line is this: It is impossible to get anywhere without the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4

2. The breath of God is unending. It is a wind violently at times rushing through our presence, destroying all that is not of the Spirit. It is a spirit that stirs us up. As the wind moves things around, the breath of God fills our hearts and moves our spirits. `Receive the Holy Spirit,' and feel the gentle breezes of God's grace in our midst. John 20:22