



St. Tikhon's Monastery

175 St. Tikhon's Rd. Waymart-South Canaan

Pentecost 2019

Beloved of the Lord,

Each year as we enter into the mystery of Pentecost, we're reminded of our life in the Holy Spirit. We live in a world of deep mystery and wonder, but without the Holy Spirit to help us read and understand the alphabet of creation, its depths will remain largely opaque to us. With the Holy Spirit, man acquires a spiritual sight that enables him to understand God's reason behind the world and opens to him the "manual" of spiritual life. St. Paul reminds us that

No one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God ... for the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Cor 2:11–14)

It is our faith in the Lord that gives us light and understanding. To follow God is to "trust in the Lord with all one's heart, and lean not on one's own understanding" (cf. Proverbs 3:5), and this enables us to receive the Spirit of truth. Faith and knowledge are not opposed to each other. Rather it is our Orthodox faith that opens the door to the experience of God which is the same in every age and place. The Spirit of God instructs our heart with an imperishable knowledge of the true God and enables us to live a life according to His will.

Let us seek to renew this Spirit of God in our lives by entering each day into the upper room of our heart, waiting with prayer and silence, listening for the still small voice: "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 45:10). It is the Holy Spirit that gives spiritual sight to man and grants him understanding. Let us all pray for one another that God's good and right Spirit will lead us all every day of our lives, and that we will be united in the bond of love here and in the Kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Be assured of our prayers and of our love for you all.

In Christ,

Father Archimandrite Sergius
Abbot of St. Tikhon's Monastery