

■ † Monday of the Holy Spirit

The Signs of the Presence of the Holy Spirit Within Us*

Epistles (Ephesians 5: 8-19)

Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth), proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them, for it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light, for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Therefore He saith: “Awake, thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.” See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, be ye not unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Gospel (St. Matthew 18: 10-20)

The Lord said: “Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you that in Heaven their angels do always behold the face of My Father Who is in Heaven. For the Son of Man is come to save that which was lost. How think ye? If a man have a hundred sheep and one of them be gone astray, doth he not leave the ninety

and nine, and goeth into the mountains and seeketh that which is gone astray? And if it so be that he find it, verily I say unto you, he rejoiceth more over that sheep than over the ninety and nine which went not astray. Even so it is not the will of your Father Who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish. Moreover, if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone. If he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that 'in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.' And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church; but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and so whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven. Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth concerning anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them by My Father Who is in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

To comfort His disciples, the Lord said that it would be better for them if He ascended to Heaven; for, having ascended, rising, in His stead He would send the Comforter—the Holy Spirit.

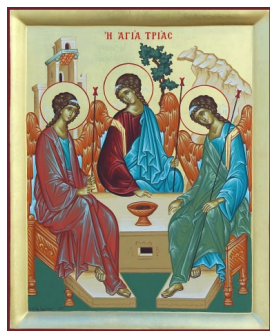
The Holy Spirit has descended and abides in the Church, accomplishing in each believer the work of Christ. Each Christian is a communicant of the Spirit. This is something so necessary, that in fact whoever does not have the Spirit is not of Christ.

Examine yourself carefully: is the Spirit of Grace within you? For He does not remain in everyone; He can depart.

The signs of His presence are as follows:

a. First, He finds a **spirit of repentance** and teaches the Christian to turn to God and correct his life.

b. The spirit of repentance, accomplishing its work, passes the Christian on to a **spirit of holiness and purity**.



c. This is succeeded, at last, by a **spirit of sonship**.

The characteristic of the first is a **work-loving zeal**; the characteristic of the second is **warmth** and a **sweet burning** of the heart; the characteristic of the third is the feeling of sonship, whereby the heart sighs to God: *Abba, Father!* (St. Mark 14:36).

Examine which of these levels you are on. If you are not on any of them, **take care for yourself**. □

(*) St. Theophan the Recluse, *Thoughts for Each Day of the Year According to the Daily Church Readings from the Word of God*