

BISHOP'S PENTECOST MESSAGE

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...” (Acts 1:8).

Beloved,

With the joy and hope of an unending comfort, we greet you as we celebrate the fulfillment of the promise of our Lord Jesus never to leave us without comfort. This promise was for the first recipients as it is for us today, and for all who would repent of their sins and put their trust in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

We live in times when people no longer endure sound doctrine but turn their itchy ears to lies. When man's inhumanity to his fellow man feels normal because many have strayed from the way of the Lord. Religious persecution is now the order of the day all across the globe. With profound sadness we recall many who, in recent times, have lost their lives to persecution within and outside Nigeria. Our world needs the love and comfort of the Holy Spirit now than ever before.

Therefore on this Pentecost Sunday we invite you to open your hearts to receive the Holy Spirit. The dry bones in Ezekiel 37 did not move until the Spirit of God blew over them. The same is true with every Christian; we can never function to our full capacity until we allow the Holy Spirit to blow over us, fill us and equip us for God's service.

Therefore I beseech you on this Pentecost Sunday to empty yourselves of any selfish and ungodly desires and invite the Holy Spirit into your lives, that He may melt and remold you, fill you, and make you useful for His service; that you can stand where God would stand even if it costs your life. More than ever before the world needs the gift of the Spirit to show its power through you, not only in tongues and prophecy, but also in your good deeds and conduct so that all around you, especially those who are not believers, will be able to see and hear about the love of Christ through you; let your presence, words and actions speak peace to their lives and circumstances.

As it represents the beginning of the Christian Church. Let this Pentecost stir in you a new desire to live and work in anticipation of the coming of the eternal reign of God.

And to him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you spotless before His throne; to the only wise God be all glory honor and majesty now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Friend,

 **Nath, Aba Ngwa North.**