

THE BISHOP'S MESSAGE ON PENTECOST

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 KJV).

BELOVED IN CHRIST,

We bring you greetings in the name of our risen and ascended Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. To the glory of our God and Father we welcome you to the Pentecost season as we celebrate the fulfillment of the above promise of our Lord not to leave His Church comfortless, but to send to her the great comforter and teacher, the Holy Spirit. This physical appearance of the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, is a summary manifestation of God as The Creator (Father), The Savior (Son), and The Sustainer (Holy Spirit). What an assuring revelation.

As we read, "And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words (Acts 2:1 -4 AMP)

To the Church, the events of that faithful Pentecost day are embolden, and empowering. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, the church is extra ordinarily equipped for her mission of making disciples of nations, and her responsibility as the salt and light of the world. Therefore, as we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, we must understand that it is His presence alone that ascertains that we are children of God. And that the essence of His coming is to embolden and empower every one of us to speak in the language every situation and condition in our life will hear and be drawn to. In a world full of various forms of ungodliness, you and I must speak in a language that must not only stand against these forms of ungodliness, but also point the world to Christ who alone can bring sanity to the insanity of our time.

Where there is hatred, we must speak the language of love, where there is division, the language of unity, where there is immorality, the language of the righteousness of Christ. We must speak the language of contentment and selflessness to our communities that are destroyed by greed, misappropriation of public fund, and materialism. We must allow the Holy Spirit to use us to convict men of their sin and bring them to the knowledge of Christ. As was the case on that Pentecost day, we must see that all who come in contact with us know, understand and confess the goodness of God seen from the way we discharge our private and corporate responsibilities.

We want to appreciate the commitment and labor of the diocesan mission and evangelism board, our EFFAC group at all levels, the clergy and all who are committed to the mission and evangelistic work of our diocese. We must remind every member of our diocese that the work of mission and evangelism is not for the EFAC group alone. Every one of us must find his or her place in the business of advancing the Kingdom of God through our words and actions, through physical involvement in, or support to, the different fronts of the diocesan mission and evangelism programs and activities. Remember, the gift of the Spirit is for all of us and so are the responsibilities and Blessings.

So, to all who seek and put themselves under the power and counsel of the Holy Spirit, May the joy and power of Pentecost fill your life and give you the grace to speak in the language that will change any situation, condition and people around you to the glory of God, your blessing and the growth of our Diocese and the Church of Christ

MAY THE FIRE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BE REKINDLED IN OUR LIVES AND HOMES AND MAY WE ALL REMAIN RAPTURE READY

And to Him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you faultless before His throne; to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ be all honor, glory and dominion now till the end of the age. Amen.

Your Bishop and Friend,

†NATH, ABA NGWA NORTH.

PENTECOST 2019