

40 Days of Fitness

A daily devotional by Rev Garry Hardingham

DAY 6 – Kaboomb!!

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:26-28

“Are you mad!! Don’t you realise what might happen?
I’m not sure if I can stay in this church if you keep doing this!!”

It was a small rant, but a strange rant. What was the cause?

Well, I had dared ask that the Holy Spirit might flood the Church and reveal to us the very presence of God so that we might be transformed closer to the likeness of Jesus. I know....radical stuff, right?

But for this man, invoking the Holy Spirit was tantamount to letting off a grenade in church.
Who knows who might get hurt!!

Yesterday, we looked at the God I don’t believe in. In the same vein, the Holy Spirit is not a hand grenade to be carried gingerly. Or a dangerous force bent on subjugating us to its all-powerful and maleficent will.

The Holy Spirit blows in and through its church and God’s people. This gift of the Spirit helps us to perceive the true value of things, events, people, the inner movements of the soul, evaluating them according to whether they bring us closer to God or turn us away from Him. It also helps us to discover how we can direct them to the perfection to which they are called, thus helping us to collaborate in the building up of God’s kingdom.

The Holy Spirit’s action in the Church is therefore quite varied. It acts in the governance and administration, in the sacraments, through the non-sacramental gifts and within the heart of each Christian, reaching into the innermost recesses of the body of the Church. Thus we see why the Church is the “temple of the Holy Spirit.” It lives in the body of the Church and builds it up in love with the Word of God, with the sacraments, with the virtues and gifts. Since the true temple of the Holy Spirit was Christ (John 2:19-22), this image also shows that every Christian is Church and temple of the Holy Spirit.

And for some, this is scary. Because we like to think of our churches as being something familiar, ordered, safe, predictable. And yet the Holy Spirit’s task is to build, equip and inspire us to God’s mission in the world. Like the boxing trainer, equipping, up-skilling and preparing us for the work the church was called into being to undertake.

It might be predicable, safe, ordered and seemingly purposeless. But, it can also be something very different!

PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus,
I thank You because You are a good God.
Your Word says that when You ascended to heaven,
You did not leave us alone,
but You asked the Father
to send us the Holy Spirit as our Helper and Comforter.
Holy Spirit,
thank You because You are always here with us.
May we feel Your presence
as You come and fill this place.
We are glad that we can always come to You
for comfort, counsel, and reassurance
that God our Father is always here with us.
Thank You Holy Spirit.
In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.