



Wednesday Prayer

Pentecost Sunday – Filled with the Spirit, we are sent.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.
Acts 2:1-4

I encourage you to read the full Pentecost message of Acts 2:1-21 and then reflect on this miraculous account of the Spirit descending on this group of believers, causing great confusion, and then receiving the gift that is the Holy Spirit. What a scene! What a remarkable message!

We may not often think of the Spirit at work in our lives, and most of us certainly don't like living in the chaos and confusion that often accompanies change or difficult times in our lives. Where are we in this Pentecost story? Are we open to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, even when this may cause confusion or discomfort?

If you're reading this, you have been moved in some way to be a part of the chaotic and confusing reality of child sexual exploitation. You have been moved to make a difference in the life of a child, or perhaps in the lives of many through education, awareness and advocacy. Or maybe you're making a difference by working for restoration with a person who has been harmed, or by supporting the restoration of one who has done the harm. The Spirit is at work in each of us. We pray that you receive this gift in order that we may serve.

Holy Spirit, fill us with the courage and strength to use our gifts to the glory of God. Especially when we may feel the confusion or chaos in this world to be too much, fill us with your Spirit to continue to work for good for those who need us most. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Executive Director of Cherish All Children. This prayer reflection was originally written for Pentecost 2018, and now we have all experienced living in new times of chaos and confusion. As this spring has brought renewed energy to our work – meeting in person again and stronger connections with youth groups and within the community – I am even more thankful for your ongoing prayers and support of the work we do together to keep children and youth safe in all communities.

If you missed our [Lunch & Learn: Safe & Healthy Relationships for Youth](#), you can view the recording on our website and pass it along to the youth leader at your church to view!