

Holy Spirit: Empowers us to live in Hope over fear

November 12, 2020- Father Paul Shovelain

- Covid 19 numbers are increasing, tension around the election is still brewing, uncertainty about the future of the USA all cause anxiety and anxiousness
- There is a lot of fear in the world and much caution is taken to protect our physical health
- Feedback on a conference call this past week from other denominations that we should not have in person services as they are so afraid
- They do not understand God's plan for humanity, he came to live in relationship with us
- We take precautions and live in hope and love
- He chose to become one of us in Jesus Christ and continues relationship with us through the Church, who is filled with the Holy Spirit
- He took a risk, suffered, died, but fulfilled a mission and brought salvation
- Jesus lived in hope as he was united in the Holy Spirit with the Father
- Acts of the Apostles shows the vitality Holy Spirit in many powerful ways
 - o 2:1-4 Holy Spirit descends mightily upon the apostles
 - o Holy Spirit sends them out to evangelize Israel in chapters 1-9 and evangelize Gentiles in chapters 10-28
 - o Shows the power of the Holy Spirit that is not stopped by prisons (5:19 and 12:7) persecutions (8:1 and 12:1-5) and plots (9:23-24, 23:13, and 25:3)
- This book is a sequel to the Gospel of Luke which revealed God's desire to bring comfort to the hurting through the ministry of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit
- Humans are shown cooperating with the Holy Spirit at the beginning of Luke and at the end of the Acts of the Apostles as a model for us
- The work of God continues through members of the Church cooperating with the Holy Spirit
- Need to pray like the Apostles did, with openness and hope
- Need to be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit and let it shine through us as the apostles did
- The Holy Spirit given by way of contact with God, see this in Baptism and Confirmation, 2, 41, 3:7, 8:16, brings about life and healing
- See the Apostles not living in fear of punishment but in Hope



Discussion Questions:

1. How has the last month been?
2. Who or what voices do you listen to and what do you notice from them? Is there fear or hope there?
3. What about our faith gives you hope?