The Joy of the Spirit

“Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Cor 3:17)

Introduction

* During this session, I was invited to share about “The Joy of the Spirit.” There are several ways to approach the topic of **joy in the Spirit**. I found a few Scripture references that we could use as a guiding thought. But during the main focus of this talk, I want to talk about the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and how that infilling and renewal of grace inside each one of us produces the fruit of joy.
* After this talk, we are going to have the opportunity for prayer ministry, and to ask for any specific graces that we need. So as I am talking, be listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit to hear what He might want to say to you during this time.

**Scriptures**

* “Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.” (2 Cor 3:17)
* “The joy of the Lord is my strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10)
* “ But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22)

**Audience**

* Now, as I give this talk on the joy of the Spirit, I am keenly aware that I am speaking to the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, people who have experienced the indwelling abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in a way that has been transformative.
* I wrote this talk in that context- to provide an opportunity to reflect on our own experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and to invite us to consider if we may need a renewal of that grace and a renewal of that joy and those fruits of the Spirit.
* Many of my notes from this talk come from the book “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” which was written by ICCRS. I am sure some of you have read this, but we also have it for sale if you are interested!

**Talk**: (Refer to book)

* Definition of Baptism in the Holy Spirit:
  + “Baptism in the Spirit is a life-transforming experience of the love of God the Father poured into one’s heart by the Holy Spirit, received through a surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.” (p13)
  + (break down these elements)
* Effects:
  + “It brings alive sacramental baptism and confirmation, deepens communion with God and with fellow Christians, enkindles evangelistic fervor, and equips a person with charisms for service and mission.” (p13)
* Does this grace of BHS belong only to one group?
  + “This work of God, which has been present since the beginning of the Church, cannot be limited to one current or movement. The present document, however, focuses on BHS as it has been manifested in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal.”
* Reasons for focusing on BHS in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal
  + 1. “The reality of BHS has been brought to the Church’s attention in our time through the work of the Holy Spirit in the Renewal.”
  + 2. “BHS has been received and understood as the central grace at the heart of the Renewal.”
  + Remember from last week!  
    Pope Francis said, “share baptism in the Holy Spirit with everyone in the Church. It is the grace you have received. Share it! Don’t keep it to yourselves!” (2019 Letter to CHARIS)
* “Through BHS, the experience of the first Pentecost has been made present anew in our time.” (p13)
* “All the other fruits of the Renewal flow from Baptism in the Spirit and in turn shed light on this foundational grace.” (p14)

**The effects of the Grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

* This document lists **12 effects** of the grace of Baptism of the Holy Spirit. When a person receives this grace, these 12 effects are commonly experienced as a result of this new movement of the Holy Spirit in the soul:
  + This is what the document says: “This section will describe in more detail the characteristic features of Baptism in the Spirit, and its effects in the lives of the faithful. The ordering of this section does not reflect an order of importance or chronology of the effects. Some features are typically intrinsic to the experience of receiving baptism in the Holy Spirit, while others are fruits that often develop subsequently.” (p18)
* I invite you to reflect on your own experience as we discuss these effects of Baptism in the Spirit. Have you experienced these effects? Can you think of tangible examples? Are there any of these effects where you want to ask the Holy Spirit to move more deeply and powerfully in your life?
* Specifically, I want to frame this talk in the context of joy. As we live out these effects of BHS, the fruit of the spirit is JOY. In which of these effects have you experienced joy? Is there any specific area where the Holy Spirit is calling you to a renewed joy or renewed commitment?
* Each of you will have unique answers- but allow your heart to listen to the call of the Spirit of Joy, inviting you deeper into your relationship with Him.

**12 Effects:**

2.1 A New Awareness of the Reality and Presence of the Triune God

* “The most immediate effect of baptism in the Spirit is a new awareness of and communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit…” (p16)
* “Baptism in the Spirit corresponds to what St. JPII often described as an encounter with the living Christ.”
* Read this section- it is worth it
* What could be more joyful that the Trinity dwelling within us?

2.2 Power for Sanctification

* The Holy Spirit is the sanctifier! BHS fills us with the sanctifier.
* Read this section out loud too
* Special note- p19 “Where people respond to this grace in a consistent way…”
  + The FRUIT of the Spirit is Joy!

2.3 Praise and Worship

* “The Charismatic Renewal has reminded the Church of the necessity and importance of the prayer of praise. When we speak of the prayer of praise in the Church, Charismatics come to mind.” – Pope Francis (page 19)
* “Baptism in the Spirit leads to revitalized worship, at the heart of which is proclaiming the praises of God, whether in song or in spoken words, often with uplifted hands. As people are filled with the love of the Father and a knowledge of the saving lordship of Jesus, they spontaneously respond in praise and worship…” (p19)
* This is a “renewal of trinitarian worship.” (p20)
* P18 signs of creativity in worship- When we receive Baptism in the Holy Spirit, one of the effects is a new freedom in worship, a new freedom in praise, a new fluidity in singing spontaneous praise of God. This is a blessing for the Church!

2.4 Rediscovery of Prayer, Scripture, and the Sacraments

* “People baptized in the Spirit testify to a new thirst for prayer, Scripture, and the sacraments.” -page 20
* “Prayer becomes less a matter of routine, and more a matter of the heart- a spontaneous response of love of gratitude to God and an expression of confidence in his gracious provision for all our needs.” (p20)
* “Many have found the Spirit leading them into contemplative prayer and the discipline of fasting.”
* This section notes that, for a person who has been baptized in the Holy Spirit- The Scriptures come alive… (p20), and also they experience a dew awareness of Christ’s presence and power in the Liturgy of the Church, especially in the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation (p21)
* This reminds me of the guiding quote of this document- BHS is answering the deepest need of the Church in our day. BHS makes us people of PRAYER who enter into Communion with God through prayer. Let us press in more each day!

2.5 A New Love for the Church, Mary, and the Saints

* Those who are baptized in the Spirit find a deeper love not only for Jesus but also for “his Bride the Church…”
* A “new closeness to Mary” as the first disciple to be filled with the Spirit
* Deeper appreciation for the teachings and holiness of the Saints

2.6 Charisms

* Three main points that I would like to highlight:
  + We could give many sessions of teachings just on this tiny section, “Charisms.” Our purpose here is only to highlight that, when we receive BHS, we also become more open to the charisms. This is a direct effect of receiving the grace of BHS.
  + “BHS brings about the release of charisms, particularly the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12.” (page 22)
    - God desires to pour out charisms upon the Church! God the Father WANTS to give us the gift of prophecy, of tongues, of healing- through BHS, we become more open to that.
  + These charisms have always been present in the Church, and yet, “In the Charismatic Renewal, they have appeared in a new abundance and at all levels, among clergy, religious, and lay people.” (page 22)
  + “These charisms are understood as gifts not primarily for the recipient, but for the upbuilding of the Church and the work of evangelization.” (page 22)

2.7 Healing and Deliverance

* As we mention charisms, we move swiftly into the next effect of BHS- the particular charisms of healing and deliverance ministry.
* The document states, “Through baptism in the Spirit, charisms of healing have become widely diffused, and prayers for healing have become an ordinary part of the Christian life for many.” (page 23)
* “The Renewal embraced the ministry of healing as an integral part of its mission…” (p23)
* In the Charismatic Renewal, it is common to pray for healing- and this healing includes all forms- physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual.
* As part of His ministry, Jesus healed, and empowers his disciples to minister healing to others in His name.
* The document also recognizes that “Healing is closely linked with deliverance from the influence of evil spirits.” (page 24)
* “Here, The grace of baptism in the Spirit meets a major spiritual need in the Church’s ministry to the contemporary world.” (page 24)
  + The Church recognizes a great need in our day and age for intentional ministry of deliverance and healing.

2.8 Mobilization of the Laity

* People of every vocation are receiving the grace of BHS, and the effects and charisms are being widely distributed by the Spirit of God.
* “This grace of BHS renews the lives and vocations of all the recipients- the ministry of the priest, the consecrated life of religious, and the service of lay people especially in their marriages and families.” (p25)
* Right here- we have people of many vocations participating! That is awesome!
* In a particular way, “Lay people baptized in the Spirit have been prominent in the work of evangelization. Many have been awakened to their call to serve in various ways, whether in the parish or in wider contexts.”
* Have you felt the Lord stir you to a deeper service in the Church? Have you been mobilized by the Spirit to move forward in evangelization? Have you found joy from that experience? Have you found joy from that expression of your Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

2.9 Evangelization

* “Among the evident fruits of BHS is a zeal to evangelize…” Do you have a zeal to evangelize? To tell people about Jesus Christ and His love for them?
* “People transformed by the Spirit become living witnesses able to speak of Christ from personal experience and from an existential understanding of the word of God.”
* For example- Johnny shared his testimony with us in the beginning of this webinar. Sharing our testimony is a primary form of evangelization!
* When we are Baptized in the HS, we have a new desire to spread the Gospel and a new clarity as to the content of the Gospel.
* Pope Paul VI- “It must be said that the Holy Spirit is the principal agent of evangelization: it is He who impels each individual to proclaim the Gospel…” (page 26)
* Let us ask the HS to impel us more and more to share Jesus Christ with our neighbors, our families, our strangers, our enemies. Have you found joy from that experience? Have you found joy from that expression of your Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

2.10 Commitment to Social Justice

* The next effect, this Commitment to Social Justice, is truly a form of evangelization and opens us to evangelize more. Receiving the HS leads directly to solidarity with others and a special concern for the poor.
* Many groups in the Charismatic Renewal have been invited by the Spirit of God to begin programs of outreach- homeless shelters, medical clinics, orphanages, rehabilitation programs, pro-life ministries, etc.
* We are never just “doing nice things”- “In the Renewal, such works of service usually combine a care for people’s physical needs with a dynamic sharing of the good news of Christ.” It is ordered towards salvation and healing of the heart.
* Pope Francis exhorted the Renewal, “Be close to the poor, the needy, to touch in their flesh the flesh of Jesus.” He also asked, “Organize seminars of life in the Spirit for brothers and sisters living on the street, also for brothers and sisters marginalized by so much suffering in life.” (page 27)

2.11 Ecumenical Impetus

* We learned in our lesson together last week that the Catholic Charismatic Renewal truly began in an ecumenical fashion. In Protestant Christian communities, this movement of baptism in the HS began in 1901 and continued to spread. In 1967, when the Holy Spirit began this movement in the Catholic Church, there was a significant role from Protestants and Pentecostals in sharing their experience with the Catholic Church.
* “Baptism in the Spirit has thus had an inherently ecumenical impulse from the start. Catholics in the Renewal have experienced a new level of spiritual fellowship with other Christians who received this same grace, based on a common experience of deeper conversion to Christ, principally expressed in worship and prayer, leading to a love for the Holy Spirit’s work for reconciliation and unity” (page 27)
* Unity is part of the vision and mission of The Ark and The Dove. Pope Francis has reminded the Renewal, “I expect that you give witness of spiritual ecumenism with all those brothers and sisters of other Churches and Christian communities who believe in Jesus as Lord and Savior.” (page 28)
* “Catholic Renewal rejoices over what the Holy Spirit carries out in the other Churches.” (28)
* Have you found joy in Ecumenism? Have you found joy from that expression of your Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

2.12 New Communities

* Just read the whole section.

In conclusion!

* Definition of Baptism in the Holy Spirit:
  + “Baptism in the Spirit is a life-transforming experience of the love of God the Father poured into one’s heart by the Holy Spirit, received through a surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.” (p15)
  + This life-transforming experience produces beautiful effects in our soul, in our prayer, in our spiritual and communal life, in our life in the Church.

Have you experienced this grace? Have you experienced these effects?

Move into Prayer Teams…