

# Reflection on Pentecost II

The Rev'd. Dr. John Roddam | [www.Pleroma.ca](http://www.Pleroma.ca)

Sunday May 15th, 2016 is Pentecost! This is one of the B-I-G Feast Days in the Christian Year. It commemorates when the Holy Spirit came to empower the Church. Then things exploded – all Heaven broke loose! The Early Church moved in power – healing, deliverance, and miracles!

Hebrews 13:8 affirms “*Jesus is the same, yesterday and always!*” So what happened? A person can go through the school system and end up functionally illiterate. Similarly, a person can grow up in the Church without finding God. I have shared in previous posts that I was a good Deist (I believed in God) but I was not a Christian – I had not encountered the Living Jesus Christ. When the Lord in His mercy brought me to a life-changing conversion experience, Jesus began to reveal Himself to me and my relationship with Him began to grow. However, in a functional way the Trinity was The Father, The Son (Jesus) and the Holy Bible... not the Holy Spirit! I was afraid of the Holy Spirit. I was happy for the Holy Spirit to stay in the Bible and in History Books. I didn't want Him to mess with me.



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However, in the course of pastoral work and the inevitability of praying for people, I began to see the Holy Spirit touch people. Then I took the big step to learn about the person and work of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity! I was terrified of abuses but gradually I embraced the aphorism – the solution to ABUSE is not DISUSE but RIGHT USE! I found mentors (some Anglican but most from other traditions) who helped me to grow in my understanding of the Holy Spirit – and this is as a priest in the Church of God! We don't learn this stuff in seminary!

As I have grown in God, I've seen amazing things happen and have travelled across the world. I have seen blind eyes open under my hands, cancers healed, etc. It is amazing to see what the Lord will do when we welcome Him and get out of the way!

Pentecost has become a rallying point for Christians around the world to pray for spiritual awakening and for unity in the Church. A few years ago believers in Africa instituted the Global Day of Prayer (<http://www.globaldayofprayer.com>). Now this movement has grown to over 100 million!! Check out the website and join in! Jesus is drawing His Church together to celebrate our unity in Him. While we have distinctives and differences, Pentecost can be a time of celebrating that at our core, we have more in common than we have dividing us. Let's affirm the dictum often attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo (but actually first appeared in the early 17th C.!!)

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*In essentials UNITY,  
In non-essentials DIVERSITY,  
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- In essentials UNITY, in non-essentials DIVERSITY, in all things CHARITY!!