

Can You Imagine What It Would Be Like To Be Filled With Jesus' Presence?

At this time of year Christians remember when the Holy Spirit filled Jesus' followers, a season called Pentecost. If you look at the account of when the Holy Spirit filled the disciples, it is almost like a before and after photograph. Prior to the coming of the Holy Spirit, the disciples were confused, cowardly, afraid and perhaps not a group you would have readily followed. But after the Spirit filled them, the disciples exhibited a new courage, a new understanding of what Jesus was calling them to, and the ability to minister as Jesus had, performing signs and wonders.



What could have caused such a change? Jesus says in the Gospel of John that he will send another advocate for the disciples. What Jesus means is that he is sending the third person of the Trinity, His spirit. And by this Jesus will fill them with his presence. This is what caused this radical shift in the disciples. Their conviction in the truth of Jesus' love, revealed to them by the Holy Spirit, caused many of them to die for their faith. In no way did these disciples reflect the men we witness just after Jesus has died.

And this offer of being filled with Jesus' presence is there for all of us who ask. Can you imagine what it might like to be filled with the presence of Jesus? Perhaps that seems like a bizarre idea! The promise is that the Holy Spirit will bring us comfort, strength, peace, help and be a guide in our life. He comes to help us, and to enable us to know how much Jesus loves us. When he fills us, we also experience the before and after that the disciples experienced: the conviction that Jesus' love is true and real that it is worth giving our lives for.

Helen Metters