

## HOLY SPIRIT PEOPLE

The Rev. Corinne Hodges, Pentecost May 31, 2009, St. John of the Cross

Are you a Holy Spirit person? Who do you relate to most in the Trinity: Father, Son or the Holy Spirit?

Not many sermons on the HS. Why don't people talk more about the Holy Spirit? Many of us have images of what God is like; the parables give us enough information to picture Jesus and come to know him better. But what about the Spirit? Mysterious member of the Trinity...What is the Holy Spirit like?

Today is Pentecost=the feast of weeks or spring barley harvest in OT times. Jewish tradition held that the law was given on this day. We celebrate Pentecost as the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit upon God's people. Perfect time to ponder the HS:

1. Sounds like a rush of a violent wind	2. Appeared like tongues of fire	3. Jn--came down heaven like a dove
-loud, noisy -sudden -destructive -powerful -can't touch -stirs things up -causes others/selves to move	-sparks, ignites -don't touch or want to get burned -produces flames -dangerous -can also purify -"Controlled burns" new birth, growth, restoration	-white, soft, fluffy -graceful, gentle -want to touch -peaceful, calm -more comforting image -symbol of new creation in Gn

So which is it? Is the HS like wind, fire or a dove? I would argue all three.

Fire: Ignites in us an urge to do/say something, to proclaim something important  
To speak up on another's behalf

Dove: To guard our mouths; To think before we speak  
Act rather than react  
Sleep on something before we make a big decision, something we might regret. Symbol of peace

Wind: We cannot contain the Spirit. It lives and moves and has its being in all of our lives. Unpredictable. You never know what it's going to do next. Times in life when the Spirit's movement surprises us.

What does the HS look like to you? Wind (rushing in & out), Fire (igniting in you a desire to be better person), Dove (to rest, reflect, be more peaceful in the world)?

(What does the Spirit enable you to do, feel or say?  
In what areas in your life do you most feel its presence?  
What is the HS stirring within you?)

Whether we should move, act, speak or be silent...how do we discern what the HS is doing in our lives? How do we know what to do?

1. Prayer—By getting quiet and listening to the voice of God, the call of the Spirit, amidst the busyness of our physical lives we can know
2. Worship community—four baptisms. We welcome these children as part of this faith community. A safe and supportive place for them to listen, share, discern the movement of the Spirit in their lives. These children and their families will help us discern the Spirit's fire and grace in our own lives as well.

Two final things to remember from our reading in Acts:

1. **The HS leaves a mark on people's lives.** The Spirit changes people. Receive HS=Renewed and reborn. With the Spirit, we begin to speak one another's language; we start to understand and accept each other despite our differences.
2. **The HS is accessible to everyone.** HS is Universal. We all have had moments when we have felt the Spirit's presence. Sometimes they happen so quickly that all we can do is hang on and go with the flow. The Spirit is available to all people, not just a few.

The answer to the opening question: Are you a HS person? It's YES!  
We all are HS people!