



Novena to the Holy Spirit: Day 6



“The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him... the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord” (Is 11: 2-3).

This sentence from the prophet Isaiah is referring to Jesus, the future Messiah. When you first hear, it can be a little shock. After all, the Bible keeps saying “do not be afraid”, and yet we’re told that the future Messiah would delight in fearing the Lord. What can this mean? Well, there’s a good way and bad way to understand it. The bad way is to think we need to fear God because we see God as a tyrant or harsh man in the sky. The good way is what the Holy Spirit gives us. It is what we might call a filial fear, that of a child who loves their father and mother. They love them so much they don’t want to offend them and even if they do upset them, they begin again to show them love. That’s what the Holy Spirit’s gift of the fear of the Lord does in our life. It makes us want to love God so much that whenever we sin or fail to love others, we will always begin again, not wasting time even in self-pity about our sin. To always begin again is the good gift of filial fear of the Lord that the Holy Spirit gives us.

Experience: St. Thérèse of Lisieux is a great example of someone who lived this gift of the Holy Spirit. She wrote: “It is not because I have been preserved from mortal sin that I lift up my heart to God in trust and love. I feel that even had I on my conscience every crime one could commit, I should lose nothing of my confidence: my heart broken with sorrow, I would throw myself into the Arms of my Saviour. I know that He loves the Prodigal Son, I have heard His words to St. Mary Magdalen, to the woman taken in adultery, and to the woman of Samaria. No one could frighten me, for I know what to believe concerning His Mercy and His Love. And I know that all that multitude of sins would disappear in an instant, just like as a drop of water cast into a flaming furnace.”

Action: Take as a motto “always begin again”. Any time you feel you’ve failed or not loved, don’t delay, begin again straightaway.

Request: In silence make your request-petition.

Prayer: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth. O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



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