

**Message**

**Sunday May 19, 2024**

**“JESUS GIVES US THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH”**

**Pastor Hans Peethala**

Do you believe in life after death?" the boss asked one of his employees. "Yes, Sir." the new recruit replied. "Oh, well that's okay then!" said the boss. "Because after you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she stopped in to see you!"

**It's Pentecost Sunday and IT'S A PERFECT TIMING TO TALK OF LIFE AFTER DEATH.**

The employee Tim just stumbled by telling a lie.

I remember as a child, stumbling was an ongoing activity. The more I played the more I stumbled. The older I grew the kind of stumbling differed; it became not just physical but social and Spiritual too. The more I grew the more I stumbled in life. Sometimes when we stumble and fall, we become numb, and it takes a while to overcome the numbness.

**How have you stumbled in the last few weeks?**

In JOHN 16:1 Jesus reminds us “I have said these things to you to keep you from stumbling”.

### **1. Living as dead**

On this Pentecost Sunday we are reminded that so many people were gathered as Peter was preaching in Acts 2. All these people have stumbled and fallen in their lives. They were living as dead people, unrighteous and unholy. Ezekiel calls these people as dry dead bones in the valley.

**In Ezekiel 37 the word of God reminds us, there were dry dead bones throughout the valley and God's word brings life to the dead bones. The servant of the Lord did as the Lord's word came to Him. God's word first put flesh and then skin and then he breathed on them, and all of those dead bones came to life.**

Paul the apostle reminds us in Ephesians 2: 1-3” As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,<sup>2</sup> in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world. The Spirit is now at work in those who are disobedient.<sup>4</sup> But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,<sup>5</sup> made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.”

**Dear friends! On this Pentecost Sunday we are reminded we all were like dead creatures, and we have stumbled and have fallen into the grave of sin and were dead like these dry bones in the valley.**

**Today we are reminded of God's spirit with us.**

**THEME: “JESUS GIVES US THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH”**

In John 16:13 "Jesus said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.

Dear Friends! The truth is when we stumble, we can never bear the truth until we have the Holy Spirit with us.

Think of the times when someone came to you and said, "You are wrong"!

How did you take it? People say "Truth is bitter" but for those who are filled with the Holy Spirit, the truth will set you free to get better, to grow more the way God created you to be.

## **2. The Truth catches you to set you free.**

Jesus says, "When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."

The Greek word for Truth is Aleithia. Literally, it means, 'unhidden' or 'unforgotten.' This means on the day of your Baptism you received the Holy Spirit; you received the truth that is revealed and cannot be unhidden and forgotten anymore. Pentecost is the day we are reminded not to forget the TRUTH.

**Soren Kierkegaard a Danish Philosopher and Theologian said "The truth is a snare: you cannot have it without being caught. You cannot have the truth in such a way as to catch it, but only in such a way that it catches you."**

We can never catch the truth until the Holy Spirit the Spirit of Truth catches you. Pentecost Sunday is all about the TRUTH! THE DAY THE TRUTH WAS REVEALED!

When we were created, we received the breath of God that gave us life and on Pentecost Sunday we have receive the Spirit of God that leads us to all truth.

The truth of WHO YOU ARE! The Truth of WHO JESUS IS!

The Truth of WHO YOU WILL BE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Jesus says "I Am The Way! The Truth! And the Life!"

If you want to know the truth, we need Jesus to abide in us.

**When Jesus abides in us, we become true Disciples.**

**When we become true Disciples, we are filled with the truth. This truth doesn't condemn us nor crush us down.**

**This Truth BUILDS US UP AND sets us free.**

It happened on Pentecost Sunday in Acts 2 "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place.

Dear Friends! There was One Spirit One word but different tongues. Those who watched from outside thought these people were mad or drunk. But for those who received it was joy, it was being set free. It was a new life, a new passion.

**Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”**

### **3. Truth abides in you to build you up.**

Pentecost is all about the Holy Spirit abiding in us and **KNOWING THE TRUTH THAT YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD.**

When I was young, I thought I can do it with my own strength. I never knew what it meant to live as a disciple. I thought it was just by trying to obey the law we can be a perfect disciple. The focus was on what I need to do for God. **The law tells you what you need to do for God, but the Gospel tells you what God does for you.**

**But one day “I went to a Bible camp”.** The Holy Spirit came on me and revealed the truth to me. **The truth that I am a sinner! The truth that I cannot do anything apart from God.** My tongue that spoke worldly language **began to speak the divine language.** The Holy Spirit reminded me of the TRUTH and to speak the TRUTH.

I received the good news **the GOSPEL of “What God does for me!** The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth showed me that “My focus was no longer on me, and what I need to do for God, **But I received the truth of what God has done for me through Jesus Christ our SAVIOUR!**

From that day on **THE Holy Spirit taught me to rely on God’s wisdom, His strength, and His guidance”.** **Not my will but yours be done!**

I was set free to live in Christ. I was set free to live in the truth. I was set free to live in the Holy Spirit and in the breath of God.

Today we come to know the truth of **WHO WE ARE!**  
the Truth of **WHO GOD IS!**  
And the truth of **WHO WE OUGHT TO BE?**  
We are broken people, healed and saved by the **GRACE OF GOD!**

We are God’s people! People of the living God who we dry bones and have received flesh and skin and breath of God to be merciful, loving, forgiving, building relationships, and mending relationships to have fellowship that will lead us to the truth.

God created you to be like Jesus. God created us to live in the truth.

Are you living in a lie that condemns you or in the truth that sets you free?

Someone said “The love in your heart wasn’t put there to stay!

**Love isn't love until you give it away! If it comes back its yours! If it doesn't it never was!**

**I would say "The truth in your heart is never put there to stay! Truth isn't truth until you give it away to people around you!"**

**Today the Spirit of God comes as fire and the wind to embrace us with the Truth! Live and Share this TRUTH and rejoice in the Truth our Saviour. Go in Peace. Amen**