TRINITY 19

THE COLLECT

O GOD, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee; Mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

- 1. When are we not able to please God? A. when we are _____ Him (Romans 8:8)
- What do we pray may direct and rule our hearts?
 A. His ______ (2 Thessalonians 3:5)
- 3. In what do we pray the Holy Spirit may direct our hearts? A. in _____

INTRODUCTION.

- 1. It is good to have a friend to whom we can always go, in doubt and perplexity, who will tell us the right thing to do. It is better still to have this friend close to us, living in the house with us.
- 2. The apostles had such a friend, when Jesus lived with them on earth. They could always depend on Him, always get help and guidance from Him, in every difficulty. But He was going to leave them, and what could they do? How helpless they would be, with so many enemies around, and so many difficult questions to decide, and so many hard things to do.
- 3. He made them a promise (St. John 14:16, 16:7). He would send them a Friend, the Holy Ghost, Who should take His place and even do more for them than He had done; Who should not only be near them, but in them (14:17); Who should always teach and guide them (14:26. 16:13).
- 4. We ask that He may both direct and rule our hearts. A government may make wise laws, but they are no use unless they put forth poser to carry them out, and unless people submit to that power. By the laws they direct, by the power they rule.
- 5. So the Holy Spirit gives us strength to do as He guides. He not only shows us that a thing is right, but He makes us happy in doing it. He not only shows that a thing is wrong, but He makes us feel misery and pain if we do the wrong.

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6. And so we must submit to His rule, and we must again and use His strength through the means of grace by which He works. We must submit our wills to Him. We pray that He may direct and rule our hearts. So only in union with God can we pleas Him as Enoch did. Let us then resolve as the verse tells us (Psalm 48:13)

I. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST.



1. To the Early Church.

As Jews the apostles had the Holy Ghost *with* them. But He should be *in* them. He began to be in them when our Lord

breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (St. John 20:22). He came to them on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4) and renewed His Presence at every time of need (Acts 4:31). He was in those who came after them (Acts 8:17, 10:44, 8:52, 19:6).

2. To Ourselves.

a. In our Baptism. The Holy Ghost is given to cleanse us, to give new life to our souls (St. John 3:5, Titus 3:5, Acts 2:31-39). b. In our Confirmation. When the Holy Ghost is given to be our Strengthener (Acts 8:17, 19:6) c. Continued to us by our heavenly Father, "when we ask Him," according to Christ's promise (St. Luke 6:13)

II. THE GUIDANCE OF THE HOLY GHOST.

1. He guided the Apostles.

a. By helping them to remember, and to teach and to write what Jesus had done and taught b. By showing them what truth and doctrine the church ought to teach and believe c. By helping them to decide rightly some difficult questions. (Acts 10:19-20, 15:29-29) d. By teaching them what they ought to say and how they ought to act in times of trial (St. Matthew 10:19-20, Acts 9:8)

2. He guides His Church.

a. By giving wisdom to bishops, rulers, and councils, to make good laws for the Church; by giving His message to His ministers when they preach; by teaching good men praises and prayers for the church to use—as the Te Deum and the Collects.

3. He guides each one of us.

a. By our conscience and by holy Scriptures; the channel of this guidance may be through the counsel of parents, pastors, teachers, friends, and through sermons, lessons, and good books.

4. **He guides the world**.

a. By making them feel their sins, by leading them to Christ as their Saviour, and by showing them how to gain the victory over sin (St. John 16:8-12).



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