

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Work of the Holy Spirit Fifth Week of Easter Monday, April 30, 2018 8:15 AM
Acts 14:5-18; **Jn 14:21-26** (St. Pius V, pope) (The Holy Spirit will inspire words and concepts in your minds that you may come to have your own personal understanding of this great work that God accomplished in Christ.)

“The Advocate, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name—he will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.”

This teaching is the basis of the belief that **our New Testament is really the work of God and the word of God.** Obviously there were no secretaries taking notes when Jesus preached. Obviously the disciples were for the most part illiterate. The validity of the New Testament does not rest on the fact that they actually recorded exactly what Jesus said, but rather **it’s the Holy Spirit who is teaching everything and reminding the disciples of everything that he told them.**

Now the words, according to our understanding, are **actually the words of the evangelists; they chose the way it was put.** For one thing, the whole New Testament is written in Greek. Jesus probably spoke in Aramaic. Now Paul obviously spoke Greek because throughout the whole region where he went on his journeys, those people there were all Greek speaking; Jews and Gentiles were all Greek speaking. And he debated with them, so he was obviously able to speak Greek. Whether Jesus could speak Greek is quite another thing. He could probably speak Greek the way a cab driver in Havana can speak English, in other words, not too well.

So we have the Holy Spirit teaching us everything, reminding us. And **it is really through the Holy Spirit that everything actually works.** Were it not for the Holy Spirit, nothing would work. And there are **many scholars** who really don’t pay proper heed to the Holy Spirit. There are biblical scholars that make so much effort to find all kinds of details out about scrolls, which is all very well and good, and versions, and the different interpretations various saints and scholars and

bishops and teachers have given to the Scriptures, and that's all well and good, but they **forget the teacher is the Holy Spirit. If the Father did not send the Spirit, the work of Christ would have terminated a long time ago.** This is something we have to keep in mind.

When we think of the Church continuing the work of Christ, it is only in the Holy Spirit that this can be. **The whole work of Christ was to involve us and envelop us in the life of God, who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.** Sometimes we whittle things down too much and think only of Christ, or only of Jesus, and we even talk about having **a personal relationship with Jesus;** especially some Christians talk this way. **Better to talk about having a personal relation with God, including the Father and the Holy Spirit, upon whom everything depends.** Even the **love that is the fulfillment of the Law is really in the power of the Holy Spirit because Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you."** That is not simply loving one another according to ordinary human ways, but **way beyond what ordinarily human beings can do.** And **this is the commandment the observation of which actually makes us disciples.**

So as we contemplate the Scriptures and recognize the primary importance of the Holy Spirit in the continuation of Jesus' work, **we need to also be open to that Spirit, who continues to speak to us.** As the Scriptures themselves are actually the words of the evangelists and the concepts of evangelists, so **the Holy Spirit will inspire words and concepts in your minds that you may come to have your own personal understanding of this great work that God accomplished in Christ.**