

Pierre Goursat

Paris

23rd May 1976

A new Pentecost is happening to us !

Teaching given by Pierre Goursat, to those he invited in order to talk to about the Charismatic Renewal, the importance of the Holy Spirit and community life.

A new Pentecost is happening to us ! The Lord absolutely wants to change the world. And yet currently we're living in our "Upper Room", quite politely, sometimes comfortably, a little lazily too. And the Lord wants to send us out into the squares, everywhere, to announce Jesus. In order to do this, it's absolutely clear we're going to have to change, or rather the Lord will change us. To change, to be truly changed, according to what the Lord wants, we must simply believe that he can change us [...].

The Holy Spirit; we have him theoretically, but we don't make use of him practically. It's a beautiful gift that's been given to us, we say: "It's very beautiful", we put it away in the cupboard, like a vase, and we say: "We'll use it on grand occasions". Like the dining service for big occasions. We say: "If we use it all the time, we'll break it!" [The Holy Spirit,] we have to make use of all the time. All the time, all the time! So as soon as you get together with four or five people, you get him out of the cupboard. And after that, you can no longer go without him!

The Holy Spirit is excessively delicate. So, he knocks a little at the door; us, we're occupied by the telephone, we don't hear him. So, he knocks a little at the door, and then after that he goes away, he says: "I came, but they didn't open to me". That's the problem. So, once, twice, three times, ok; he is very polite, he says: "Excuse me, I'll come back". In the end, he goes somewhere else. You understand, he thinks he is undesirable. But it's not at all the case! You see, he is very, very delicate [...].

This spirit of Pentecost, is not at all so we can make little communities and live peacefully amongst ourselves. It's for us to become conscious of this fire [that Jesus came to light on the Earth] and live off some, then the thing runs by itself. It's like a little candle we don't manage to light. We try to light it, it never lights. Once it's well lit, it can hold itself alone. And well, that's what the Lord wants to do. Maybe we'll have trials, tribulations... the conclusion of all that, is that the Lord would like us to hold ourselves alone. And you say: "What's a little fraternity for, if we're to be separated [from others]?" Well, you'll see precisely, that you won't be separated and you'll feel in communion with three of four [people], but you'll have received a strength, this strength from the Holy Spirit and you'll be transformed. And at the same time, in prayer you'll say: "Ah! It's strange, I thought that"; and another will say to you: "And me, I thought that too". And when you get together, you see that the Lord has made an evolution happen, together, because he doesn't need the place neither the time, he is with us, but under the condition that we are already lit [...].

Walking in faith, that's important! When you find yourself gathered together, you'll learn to do faith exercises. You'll start making sticks, doing sweeps and untying things. You absolutely must learn, together, that the Lord is helping you in the smallest of things. And it's [through] little testimonies that, little by little, you'll live it in the smallest of things. Little by little you'll have a Friend on which you'll truly count on, because you see that he never lets you fall. And little by little, it'll grow, and when important things come along, well, you'll do them like the others. That's what's important, these faith exercises. And we can only do them in community. I remember I spent 30 or 40 years of my life "turning in circles". I said to the Lord: "I would like you to be there"; I did a retreat, it went well and afterwards everything redescended, time and again. And now we're in community, truly we can start to progress. The others advance, and they pull me on. So, I start advancing. That's exercising faith [...].

Reflect on and see how we started: I was with the “poor little” Martine, we were both like two little orphans. We absolutely wanted the Holy Spirit to heat up a little and our father¹ said to us: “No, no, my little children, be prudent” [...]. So, both of us were there. Martine said to me: “But yes, yes, I believe we should do it”. I said: “Yes, yes, I don’t mind at all”. So, we met with Francis [Kohn] who didn’t say a word for nine months, the time of a period of gestation, he’s caught up since! There was also Francou [Malcor], and I don’t remember who the fifth one was anymore. There were five of us. We met together. One year later, we were 500. You realise: we had risen a hundredfold. In Paris, meeting every week, you [know how difficult that is]. To get to 500 one year later, we concluded there was certainly something happening, but it was certainly not thanks to us. And then it’s like that everywhere. In Paris, as elsewhere!

Now the Holy Spirit comes, so for “goodness sake”, we have to make use of him! [...]. The Lord says: “Hurry up, time is short, gather my people”. You have to meet together with each other. Gather together firstly in little groups. It’s really important, otherwise we cannot advance. When doing it don’t think about yourselves, think about the others, think about the world. If everyone does it, it’ll grow at a fantastic rate. Do you realise? It’s not at all for you, to receive your little personal graces; it’s much deeper, it’s to save the world. And above all, what we have to ask of the Lord, is that he burns you, that he transforms you, that he gives you a soul to empathise with Mary. You know, Silouane said that a monk is he who prays for the whole world. Certain people ask themselves what use is a monk; clearly if the monk prays like a lightening conductor, for the whole world, we can understand that it’s useful for something. And well, we can do the same thing, but together, and with the Holy Spirit [...]. The Lord needs us to be several, in order to be with us. He tells us: “For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them” (Mt. 18:20). If there are not two or three of you, this particular grace which he gives when we are gathered together, you won’t have it. Believe it in faith, even if you don’t experience it with your senses.

Pierre Goursat
and his brothers and sisters

www.pierregoursat.com

¹ Here Pierre Goursat makes allusion to Fr. Caffarel.