



New Devotional Series

THE ROAD FROM EASTER TO PENTECOST

According to the historical church calendar, the Easter season is the 50 day period from Resurrection Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. I will post a fresh devotional thought everyday through to Pentecost.

Now What?

Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you". And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." [John 20:21-22](#)

Like the followers of Jesus immediately following his death, I have felt the overwhelming grief of loss a few times in my life. You probably have too, and if not yet, you will. Loss is part of life, and no one escapes it.

Not all loss is the same. Losing a loved one to death is not the same as losing your job or moving to a new location. For some, the biggest losses have been the loss of dreams. I would put myself in that category. In my life journey, so far I have gained and lost several "dreams". When I have been so close and yet so far. I confess it hurts.

It hurts to lose. All loss is painful – even when it is necessary, or for a greater good. Make your own list of losses that have affected you. What emotions do you feel?

Shock! Grief! Despair! Dreams crushed! All hope gone! Finished!

Whatever the loss, the emotions are similar.

It is not hard to imagine the overwhelming sense of loss those friends of Jesus felt on that Resurrection Sunday.

Then a miracle happened. Jesus showed up, alive and empowered.

"Peace I give you"

What is peace? Peace is harmony, tranquillity, security, and freedom from fear. It means the end of strife and contention. Peace is good, and it is for peace that the human spirit is designed.

The peace of God is what our soul longs for. This was the first gift Jesus gave his grieving disciples. And this is the gift He gives you and me in our moments of despair. Peace is healing for the wounded soul.

He gives us beauty for ashes, and joy for mourning. ([Isaiah 61:3](#))

"As the Father sent Me, I am now sending you."

Jesus next words give hope for a meaningful future. "I am sending you" You and I have a mission, to be sent as Jesus was sent. Jesus was sent to bring healing and reconciliation, to

establish the Kingdom of God. This is the mission He gives to us, to be His representatives in this natural world.

“He breathed on them. Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Jesus had supernatural power. He now bestows that source of power on his followers. When we receive the Holy Spirit, our lives are in agreement with His truth.

“I can do all things through Christ Jesus who gives me strength.” [Philippians 4:13](#)

By receiving the Holy Spirit, we are empowered as disciples of Jesus to carry on the mission of the gospel.

Prayer:

“Father, thank you for the gift of your peace. Now I receive the gift of Your Holy Spirit. I desire to be sent as Jesus was sent, to bring glory to your name. Amen.”