

(Food for thought)

Gospel: John 17:1-11

“Waiting for the Spirit”



Waiting is not an activity that we do well. Most of the time we want quick results and are frustrated when they are long-coming. Waiting on lines at the supermarket, waiting for traffic lights, for our children to return home at night, and even waiting for our computers to "boot up" in the morning can make or break our day. We are particularly frustrated and tired of waiting for peace to break out in places of conflict in our world. And being out of control and subject to others reminds us of our frailty and our vulnerability.

With the Ascension, his followers are to stay behind to carry on Jesus' mission in the world. Jesus' prayer reminds us that we won't be on our

own. His prayer is that we be faithful to God and to God's ways in the world. Accepting what Jesus did and taught, and then living this out in our lives, will also be a way in which we reveal to the world that we are "consecrated in the truth." We realize that we cannot maintain life in Jesus on our own. So, in our awareness of our need, we are primed for Pentecost when we will be renewed in the Spirit, who energizes us once more to live a life based on the truth of Jesus - who he is for us and who he is for the world.

One thing is clear in Jesus' final prayer for his disciples. He prays for us, not that we might figure a way to escape the world with all its pains and complexities. Rather, he prays because we must stay in the world and need to be kept safe and faithful to the task of proclaiming His Word to an often unresponsive and sometimes hostile world. Jesus' prayer for believers wasn't just for those around the table at the Last Supper or for those who gathered to witness the Ascension. He is praying that our

lives give witness to the love God has for us in Jesus.

And we will patiently continue to wait for the Spirit's touch in our lives each day - the results can be far more powerful than we could ever imagine.

