

## GROWTH

*'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.'*

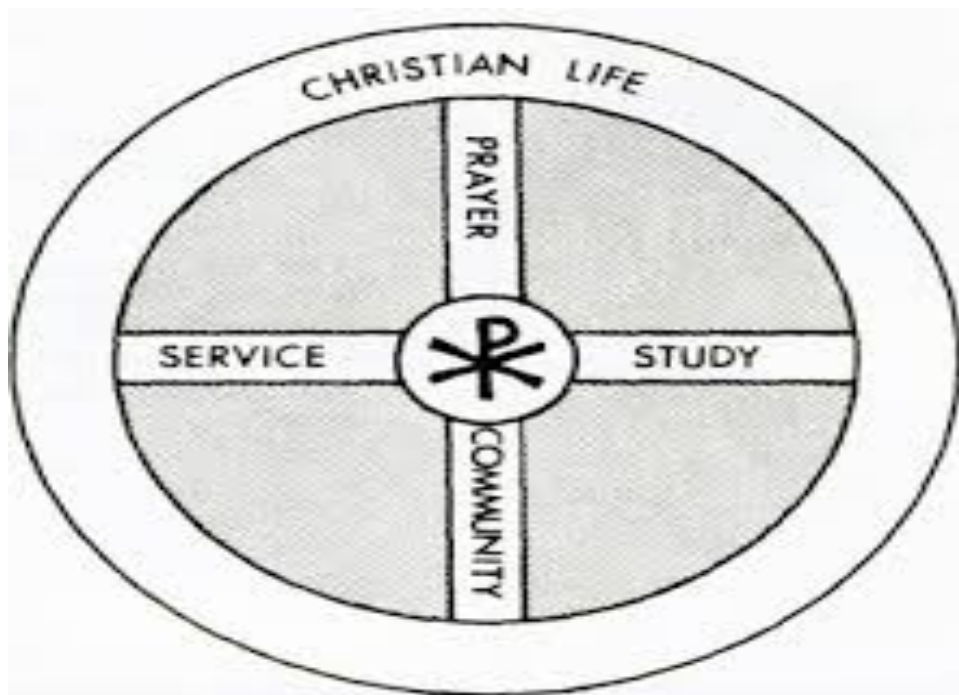
(John 15:5)

Not to go forwards is to go backwards. When we begin a new life, we have to grow, or we will always be stunted and incomplete. You have been given a new life, now you must grow to maturity in it.

Being baptised in the Spirit is only a beginning. It is a first step. It should not be the spiritual highpoint of your life. It should be the low point – from this time onwards. The Lord wants it to be the beginning of a better and better life.

You have a seed of new life in you. With the right soil and the right care a seed will grow naturally. Learn how to care for it, and have no fear; it will grow.

### The Wheel



The wheel represents your life as a Christian.

The rim of the wheel represents your daily life. As the rim revolves around the hub, you move forward.

The hub of the wheel is Christ. The hub of the wheel is the source of power and direction for the whole wheel. Christ is the source of power and direction for your life.

Spokes transmit the power and direction from the hub to the rim. As long as the rim is in contact with the hub through the spokes, it can move forward. Some spokes for your Christian life are:

Prayer

Study (Of God's word)

Community (Life shared with other Christians)

Service

Growth comes from Christ, who gives you a new life. But you need to do those things which will keep you in contact with him.

Pray every day

Study God's word regularly

Meet with other Christians for prayer and sharing regularly

Find a means of Christian service, especially find a way to share the life you have been given

## Words of life

### Day 1:

Jesus has given you a new life through the Holy Spirit. The life of the Holy Spirit in you is not like a pool of water that you have to guard carefully or it will turn dry. It is like a flowing spring that will grow in you unless you do something to stop it up. Jesus promises you:

*'Anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'*

(Jn 4: 14)

### Day 2:

Your life is in Christ; it comes from Christ. If you stay firmly joined to him, it will grow and bear fruit. If you let yourself be separated from him, it will wither away. Jesus says:

*'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers.'*

(Jn 15: 5-6)

### **Day 3:**

Jesus has given you a new self, a new way of life which is more spiritual, happier and better than the old. But you must actively put away your old self so that you might experience this new life. God's word urges you:

*'You must give up your old way of life; you must put aside your old self, which gets corrupted by following illusory desires. Your minds must be renewed by a spiritual revolution so that you can put on the new self that has been created in God's way, in the goodness and holiness of the truth.'*

(Eph 4: 22-23)

### **Day 4:**

In order to keep in contact with God who is our source of life, you should pray. Jesus prayed. Although he was the son of God, although he was very busy, he knew he had to pray. You too have to pray if you wish to stay alive spiritually. Imitate Jesus.

*'Jesus' reputation continued to grow, and large crowds would gather to hear him and to have their sickness cured, but he would always go off to some place where he could be alone and pray.'*

(Lk 5: 15-16)

## **Day 5:**

In order to grow in the life of the Spirit, you need to know what God teaches. The scriptures are the word of God, and they contain words of life. Read them and meditate on them faithfully and you will grow. God's word says:

*'From the holy scriptures you can learn the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and can profitably be used for teaching, for refuting error, for guiding people's lives and teaching them to be holy.'*

(II Tim 3: 15-17)

## **Day 6:**

The Christian life is not an individualistic life. By himself, a Christian is incomplete. The gift of the Spirit led the first Christians to join together and to form a community in which they helped one another to grow. Be faithful to the Church and to meeting with the Christians who have helped you find new life in the Spirit. Imitate the Christians on the day of Pentecost.

*'That very day about three thousand were added to their number. These remained faithful to the teaching of the apostles, to the brotherhood, to the breaking of bread, and to the prayers. The faithful all lived together and owned everything in common. They shared their food gladly and generously; they praised God and were looked up to by everyone. Day by day the Lord added to their community those destined to be saved.'*

(Acts 2: 41-47)

## **Day 7:**

If you love other people, you will want to share with them the best thing you have – the Lord. Share what you have found with wisdom, following the leading of the Spirit. God's word says:

*'Be tactful with those who are not Christians and be sure that you make the best use of your time with them. Talk to them agreeably and with a flavour of wit, and try to fit your answers to the needs of each one.'*

(Col 4: 5-6)

## **Study**

This week the two chapters we will read are about continuing faithfully in our life with Jesus and being changed into being like him.

**John 17, Philippians 3**

## Response Baptism in the Spirit 2020

Testimonies sent to Fr Seamus by people who were participating. All Names and places have been redacted to preserve people's privacy.

1. The baptism in the spirit was very powerful but I had a lot of fear that I had to deal with - fear of stepping out and witnessing- a massive amount of fear. As you prayed, I tried very hard to renounce the fear. I know that I need to step out in faith and witness, but I am still battling with the fear. I am sending you a reflection that I got the day after the seminars.
2. I want to thank you so much for the wonderful Life in The Spirit Seminars, with especially last weeks and laying on of hands, Prayers, with talks by Bishop Mc Keown, Gerdaldine Brolly, and Sr Briega Mc Kenna. I would say, I am more aware of the movement of the Holy Spirit active in me and around me, and am learning to stop, listen, and Trust His guidance in my life. The Scriptures are more alive, and interesting , it is an exciting journey. Also I listen in in the mornings to morning Mass.
3. I have been with a prayer meeting now for over 20 years I have experienced Baptism in the Spirit a number of times and was given the gift of tongues and the gift of prayer. During the laying on of hands on Tuesday night I had my hands open and I got a sensation of heat in the palm of both my hands which lasted all during your prayer. You had talked earlier about the hug from the Holy Spirit. The second time you mentioned it I got the

same sensation of heat in the centre of my back just as if someone, the Holy Spirit, had put their hand there. I had that heat sensation twice before, once in my heart in Knock at Prayer Group weekend and once in my own prayer meeting. I just felt that the Holy Spirit was so much present with us on Tuesday night.

4. The Life in the Spirit Seminar, I have loved tuning in and listening to you every week. I take part on my own. I just wanted to send you an email of my experience on Tuesday night.

Firstly I had been looking forward to Tuesday night since you announced it the week previous, I sat down on Tuesday night late home from work very unsettled, I took a few seconds to have a deep breath and ask Jesus to focus me - then hearing the words "I love you" as I settled down.

The sun shone in through the window directly into my face for the full seminar, which I felt a great peace.

As you read out the prayer of Exorcism I felt a shiver or a shutter through my whole body.

During the laying on of hands I sat with my eyes closed and my hands held out! What I saw while my eyes were closed is what gave me a great feeling of love and joy.

I saw the form of the Holy Spirit in the white dove flying around in the darkness of my eyes being shut, along with a lot of spiralling colours, while I was taking this in I saw the face of Jesus appear and disappear and immediately after the face of our blessed mother surrounded with a blue veil appear and disappear and then the form of the Holy Spirit returned, I felt so much joy and peace from this before I knew it, it seems that I had fallen asleep for two minutes or so and awoke to the hymns being played.



Such a beautiful experience for me and I am so thankful to God for allowing me these visions. I have only begun my return to the faith since the beginning of Lent, so this has given me so much hope and a feeling of protection.

5. Well, oh my goodness what a night last Tuesday night and what an outpouring of the spirit. We did not know what to expect. All along I have been totally trusting that Gods would pour out his spirit and it would be great and then to be honest on Monday there were a few hours where I was totally thinking this is mad, how on earth is this going to work and also Fr Seamus must have some faith (and nerve). It was all Satan putting doubts in but I prayed hard and trusted there would be a massive outpouring for everyone. I can only speak for my husband and I, but the presence of the Holy Spirit, the power of the Spirit and the pure peace and joy were immense last night. We were both blessed with many physical signs over the evening, gentle breeze on our hands, intense heat, a breeze on my face, deep peace, I rested in the spirit and let my body just fall, there was intense sobbing and tears and many, many more senses. I was totally exhausted and drained after it. We are very, very humbled that the spirit came to us in that way last night and blessed and anointed us. Today has been a bit of a peace filled bubble. Going forward I am mindful I have been very blessed and I just have to be open to the path that God wants and try to use the gifts that he has given. (Before the seminar on Tuesday at about 7.15 pm I was flicking/reading the bible and. 2 Chronicles 29 v 11 jumped out and it has been in my mind all day today -

seems to be a nudge to use the gifts. Quote: “My sons/daughters be negligent no longer, for Yahweh has chosen you to stand in his presence and serve him, to conduct his worship and offer him incense.”

6. Tuesday was a very powerful night with wonderful speakers. The Holy Spirit was indeed very powerful tonight going through the airways. Thank you for the initiative of doing the Life in the Spirit Seminar through the webcam totally open to the working of the Holy Spirit and thinking outside the box; Looking forward to the other seminars. Please God you might consider doing a follow on from the Life in the Spirit so that people can develop the gifts of the Holy Spirit & grow in the Holy Spirit under the guidance and protection of the church.

#### 7. Question

Last Tuesday night was very special. It was great to have Sr Briega and Geraldine Brolly join us.

We have been reading Galatians 5 and came across a line we did not understand.

Verse 9: in fact, a little leaven is affecting the whole of you. We did not understand the use of the word leaven here.

*This Reflection "Rejoice beloved daughter/son" was sent to me by someone doing the seminars so I liked it and post it for you all. I don't know who wrote it. Fr Seamus*

Rejoice beloved daughter/son because God's favour rests upon you.

You have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Your new life begins.

Rejoice.

My spirit, when it is given so freely, is like sweet rain in a dry arid desert-sweet rain and refreshment for your souls.

It is an awakening-a spiritual awakening.

You thirst for me but you fill that thirst with other things.

When I pour out my spirit it is absorbed by your soul and your thirst is quenched

Like a flower in the desert you thirst for me and I respond with the sweet, sweet rain of my spirit.

Your souls are indeed a desert, so I send a torrent of Graces, blessings and charisms-a plenitude of gifts.

Thank you for asking.

Thank you for opening your hearts.

Thank you for your thirst.

Thank you for your desire.

When a person desires me with all of their heart and soul, then it is that I can act.

Know now that you have received my spirit and spiritual gifts in abundance.

They are for the building of my kingdom.

Life is changed.

It is a new life in the Spirit.

The old has gone and the new has come.

Surrender all to me now-your past present and future.

Let me be Lord of your life.

Let me enter into every room of your heart and every corner of your souls.

No more hidden rooms nor limited access.

Let me be Lord of every aspect of your life.

Let me love you.

Accept my Love.

Let my love transform you.

Trust Me. My plans for you are peace, not disaster.

Trust Me. I want only what is good for you.

Give me your life, your family, your work, your Hopes and dreams and plans and let me give all to you.

Be not afraid and do not be anxious for I am with you and my hand is controlling all.

I came that you might have life and have it in abundance.

So filled with my spirit, go out and share my love and life with others so that they may come to know me too.

This then is your mission-to believe and to share my love with others.

I am not a figure from the past I am alive and living in you.

Go in Peace. I Love you.

**Recommended Reading.**

**Ralf Martin Hungry for God Practical help in personal Prayer**

**Available on Amazon and Kindle.**

**Our Lady's Message to Maria 25 May 2020 Medjugorje**

**“Dear children!**

**Pray with me for a new life for all of you.**

**In your hearts, little children, you know what needs to be changed. Return to God and His Commandments, so that the Holy Spirit may change your lives and the face of this earth, which is in need of renewal in the spirit.**

**Little children, be prayer for all those who do not pray; be joy for all those who do not see the way out; be carriers of light in the darkness of this peaceless time.**

**Pray and seek the help and protection of the saints so that you also could yearn for Heaven and Heavenly realities.**

**I am with you and am protecting and blessing all of you with my motherly blessing.**

**Thank you for having responded to my call.”**