

## My Pentecost Reflection

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Congratulations to our FFWPU families in Germany, and in Austria, and in all other nations who held amazing spirit-filled Pentecost Festivals last weekend! This morning at our regular Tuesday leaders' meeting we saw some of the inspiring reports and Fumiko and I would have loved to have been there in person, as in years past. And of course we were reminded once again of True Mother's Pentecost visit to us last year for the Bloom Festival in Munich. In her message to us, and to all of European Christianity, she reminded us that the whole purpose and essence of Christianity was to welcome the Only Begotten Daughter and the True Parents.

May I share with you a little Pentecost experience of my own?

Two days ago, on Pentecost (Whit) Sunday, I had the opportunity to deliver the Sunday Sermon in our UK Headquarters in Lancaster Gate. In my preparation time, suddenly Heavenly Parent revealed something new to me about True Mother's role as the Substantial Holy Spirit, that I hadn't thought about or understood properly before:

Just before the first Pentecost took place, Christianity was in danger of disappearing, or perhaps more accurately not even starting because of the tragedy of the cross. Despite the 40-day resurrection of Jesus, the disciples were still not united and still not confident. They were afraid of persecution, and they were still stunned and dispirited by the unexpected death of Jesus. Even after he appeared to them, it was only for a short time, and they still doubted.

However, when the Holy Spirit came, everything changed. They were all suddenly transformed and full of faith and fire. They were no longer afraid of persecution, or even of death, and their testimony could not be silenced. Even though St. Stephen became the first martyr, it was his death that seems to have made the final condition for St. Paul to be converted by spiritual works.

Suddenly God showed me how very similar the situation of our church was right after True Father's ascension. We were almost all lost, grieving and sorrowful. Although Father had lived a long life of 92 years, he always spoke of going beyond 100 and we were not at all ready to say goodbye. Moreover, we didn't even know how to offer proper mourning devotion. Only True Mother knew what Heaven needed.

God showed me last Sunday morning how at that very moment of despair True Mother took up responsibility and indeed did the work of the Substantial Holy Spirit. She comforted our members and our leaders, and gave us encouragement and hope where before we mostly felt despair and hopelessness. This was not a human work alone, although she had to invest every ounce of her human effort. No doubt it was the Divine work of God.

And she didn't stop with just one Pentecost. Ever since for the last 13 years she has been showing us grace after grace, building the example of the Kingdom of Heaven that we can all see with our own eyes. She has taught us about the essence of the Heavenly Parent, Heavenly Father and the hidden Heavenly Mother. She reached out the heads of state of many nations, and religious leaders from around the world. The Covid crisis could not stop her, and she created the Rally of Hope. And then for the final grace she recently consecrated the Cheon Won Gung and Cheonil Sanctum. She invited Heavenly Parent to come and reside on earth; she invited us to join her as her children, and then when it was all done she told us all that all this was our inheritance and responsibility!

Thank you True Mother! Thank you True Parents! Let us all pledge to be good stewards of this amazing grace.

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