

Pentecost – May 29-30, 2009 • Christ the King

The apostles had hidden themselves in the Upper Room. They had created a safe haven within a hostile environment; they were praying for their lives after seeing Jesus murdered. They were terrified. Their breathing was quick and shallow. But suddenly, there is a stirring of the wind and they are filled with a Holy Spirit; they are inspired. The Spirit blows the doors off the upper room where the Church was hiding. It provided the wind in the sails that drove the Church to the ends of the earth. They begin preaching with the assurance and authority. The spirit gives life to the church.

Each of us has been inspired with different gifts and different talents. We have been breathed into being to be the unique person that God made us to be. These gifts and talents are given to us to share.

Much easier to focus on what we can't do instead of celebrating and rejoicing in what we can.

We are all gifted by our God. All that we are and all that we have. Not 'self-made'. Praise God – Each of them had talents, and God uses those unique talents to start a movement – through ordinary people – that would change the world. Keep focus on the source of strength and new life and hope, never giving up an opportunity to praise and worship God.

Gifts given to be shared.

No one else with your gifts, talents and abilities not now, not ever before in history and never in the future.

"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small doesn't serve the world. There's nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine, as children do. We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us, it's in everyone. And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

Marianne Williamson as quoted by Nelson Mandela