



## Ask, Father James:

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### **He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22)**

The Joy of Pentecost is to experience being overshadowed by the Holy Spirit. This was the kind of experience of the disciples of Jesus when he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (John 20:22). Also, the early church and the first Christians experienced this joy when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.... And all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-11). Adam had a similar experience when God breathed into him (Genesis 2:7). The Blessed Virgin Mary too had this experience when the angel Gabriel appeared to her, he gave her the startling announcement that the Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most-High will overshadow you (Luke 1:35).

The Spirit is alive and working still. What happens when the Spirit comes into our lives, we receive gifts we never dreamed of. We might intuitively know how to handle a tough situation at work or at home. That's wisdom. We might stop our angry response toward another long enough to think what it's like to be in his or her shoes. That's understanding. We might find the words of hope that get to the heart of another's dilemma, and that's good counsel. Going through complex problem in the world exemplify fortitude. Willing to dig deeper, is exhibiting the gift of knowledge. In every church community you'll likely find some truly faithful souls whose bearing shows that they radically rely on God's help and accept all of life as a gift. They show true piety. Experiencing unexpected forgiveness is awe and being in his presence knowing you've known the fear of the Lord. All these kinds of experiences are known as the gifts of the Holy Spirit. They're all around us. May He continue to breathe the Holy Spirit upon us as individuals and as church, Amen.

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