

**"Temples of the Holy Spirit":**

Francis of Assisi was an ardent advocate of the doctrine of the indwelling of God in man. It enabled him to love everyone equally whatever his status in life. One day he met a fellow who had no love for God. As they walked along, they met a man who was blind and paralyzed. St. Francis asked the sightless cripple: "Tell me if I were to restore your eyesight and the use of your limbs, would you love me?" "Ah," replied the beggar, "I would not only love you, but I would be your slave for the rest of my life." "See," said Francis to the man who maintained that he could not love God, "this man would love me if I gave him his sight and his health. Why don't you love God who created you with eyesight and strong limbs?" — That is what Jesus tells us in today's Gospel. If we love Jesus because of the countless blessings he has given us, and so keep his word as the center of our life, he will start dwelling within us in the company of his Father and the Holy Spirit, making us the temples of the Triune God. (Msgr. Arthur Tonne).

**Jesus gives his followers four gifts:**

**First**, he gives them his **love**, which will enable them to keep his word.

**Next**, he gives them the **Holy Spirit**, who will teach them everything they need to know. The Holy Spirit is the abiding love of God available to us, enabling us to accept the friendship of Jesus, while imitating Him, the Master.

**Third**, he gives them His **peace** to strengthen them against fear in the face of trouble. Here "peace" is not just the absence of conflict, but also the far wider concept of *shalom*, the total well-being of the person and community. The promise of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will bring a peace that will quell their fears of the unfolding darkness ahead. "In Johannine language, *peace, truth, light, life and joy* are figurative terms reflecting different facets of the great gift that Jesus has brought from God to the world. 'Peace is my gift to you,' is another way of saying, 'I give them eternal life' (Jn 10:28) (Raymond E. Brown). The Holy Spirit is available as Comforter and Guide to those who believe in Jesus and follow in his way. The One God — the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit — is pure Love. This Love, the Triune God, comes and lives in us, takes up residence in us and lives in our body. When God's love lives in us, and we live in Him, there is much more peace in our families, our Churches, our offices.



**Fourth**, Jesus rewards them with the assurance of his **second coming**.

**"The most unpromising boy in my class"**

A schoolmaster in France was discouraged with one of his students. He wrote in his roll book concerning this student: "He is the smallest, the meekest, the most unpromising boy in my class." Half a century later, an election was held in France to select the greatest Frenchman. By popular vote, that meekest, smallest, most unpromising boy was chosen. His name? Louis Pasteur, the founder of modern medicine. When he was seventy-three, a national holiday was declared in his honor. He was too weak to attend the ceremony in Paris, so he sent a message to be read by his son. The message read: **"The future belongs not to the conquerors but to the saviors of the world"** [Edward Chinn, *Wonder of Words* (Lima, Ohio: C.S.S. Publishing Co., Inc., 1987), p. 18.]

Louis Pasteur was driven by a great purpose. Your name and my name may never be household words as is Pasteur's, but we, too, can be driven by a great purpose. Christ can give us that purpose. But there is one thing more Christ gives us. He gives us the presence of the Holy Spirit as promised in today's Gospel. A healthy sense of identity and a driving purpose are not enough in themselves. One thing more is needed. It is the in-dwelling Spirit of the living God.

**"You were walking with Mary Susanna Brown, a child of God":**

Retired Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes, (the eldest son of Boston physician, poet, and polymath, Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes), was walking down a street one day. A little girl joined him. When the girl started to turn back home, the famed jurist said, "When your mother asks you where you've been, tell her you've been walking with Oliver Wendell Holmes," to which the little girl replied confidently, "And when your folks ask you where you've been, tell them you were walking with Mary Susanna Brown, a child of God."

There's a little girl with a healthy sense of who she is! Psychologists tell us that a healthy sense of identity is one of the most valuable gifts we can give our children. We are God's children and our God is an indwelling God. First, however, we need that gift ourselves. And if we did not receive it from our parents, we will need to look to God.