Beware — The Holy Spirit! Part 2

Anthony Gittins

Follow this and additional works at: https://dsc.duq.edu/spiritan-tc

Recommended Citation

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Spiritan Collection at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in Spiritan Magazine by an authorized editor of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.
BEWARE —

The Holy Spirit!

Part 2

Anthony Gittins CSSp

We have five channels through which or whom the Holy Spirit speaks and inspires us (see “Beware — The Holy Spirit” Part 1 in the Spring 2015 issue of Spiritan). But we can identify another handful that we should look out for — this time obstacles to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Five obstacles to the workings of the Holy Spirit

One: Sometimes we expect God to work miracles and solve all our problems, so we do nothing. This is muzzling the Holy Spirit.

Two: We may fail to look carefully enough for God’s presence in our daily experience. We look for the Holy Spirit in a great mountaintop experience when we should be looking in the highways and the byways, at the street corners and bus stops.

Three: There is a danger that we protect our carefully laid plans and initiatives so that nobody, not even the Holy Spirit, can interrupt them. We decide what we’re going to do, and don’t let any-
people. But many people avoid trouble, people in trouble, and avoid being troubled by people. So, one sign that the Holy Spirit is near or even in us, is that we actually go out and do what Jesus did: look for trouble.

Second, people who pray to become disturbed, more aware, alerted to the cries of the poor and to suffering humanity, lest they fail to hear and respond to the voice of the Spirit—these are truly Spirit-led people. But some of us use headphones so we don’t hear the cries of the poor.

Those animated by God’s Spirit listen intently: they look and they watch; and they say, “I can’t do everything, but I must do something. What can I do, what will I do? Why am I not as disturbed as Jesus was, and how can I be more aware and thereby help change and transform the world?”

Third: people gathered by the Spirit and animated by her are united and yet diverse: united in their diversity. We don’t all have to be the same, but we should be on the same side: a team, but without uniforms. We don’t all need to think or understand in exactly the same way. We have different perspectives and viewpoints—but our unity is stronger than our diversity. That’s the sign of the Holy Spirit.

Fourth: people led by the Holy Spirit are absolutely convinced they can change the world, and they feel instinctively that if they don’t try, they will be called to account.

The fifth and final sign of Spirit-led people is very

One sign that the Holy Spirit is near or even in us, is that we actually go out and do what Jesus did: look for trouble.