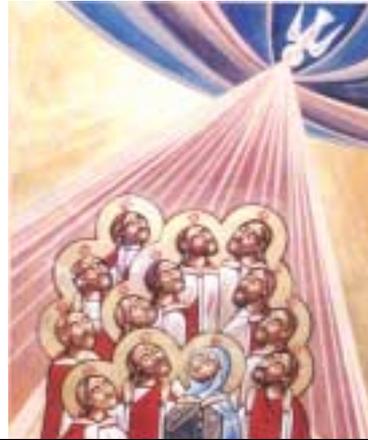




ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

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“... And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia.” (Acts. 1: 1-9)

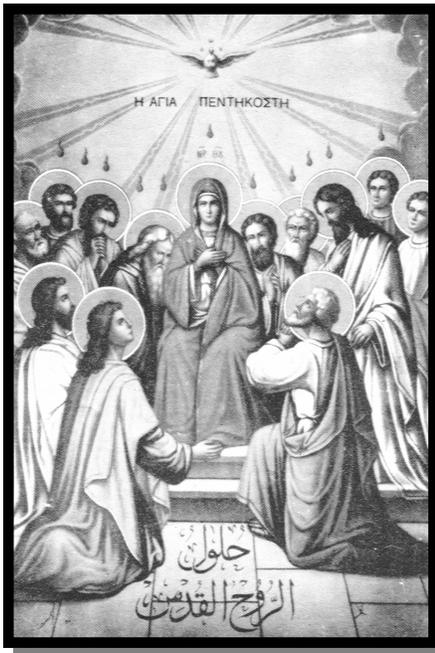
This Newsletter is a free monthly publication of the Archangel Michael Coptic Orthodox Church, PO Box 256 Howell, NJ 07731, under the supervision of Fr. Antonious Tanious.

The committee welcomes your participation in the form of articles, reviews, news or comments. Please mail your articles, comments...etc. to the church or e-mail them to archangelletter@netscape.net

If you would like this newsletter mailed to a friend or would like your name to be deleted from our mailing list, please email your request or fax it to (732) 821-1512.

Who is The Holy Spirit?

By: His Holiness Pope Shenouda III



You should know who the HOLY SPIRIT is, and what is His work in you and for you, in order to have a relationship with Him and know your need of Him. The Holy Spirit is the *"Holy Spirit of God"* (Eph. 4:30; 2 Cor. 3:3). He is the *"Spirit of God"* (Gen. 1: 2; Rom. 15: 19; 1 Cor. 12:3). The Holy Spirit is God because *"God is Spirit"* (Jn. 4:24).

THE DIVINITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

St. Peter said that to lie to the Holy Spirit means to lie to God (Acts 5:4), and since He is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of the Lord, so He is God (Job 33:4, 2 Cor. 3:3; Isa. 61:1).

This Comforter, the Holy Spirit descended and came upon the

Apostles in the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4). He is the One, God promised to send in the book of Joel, *"I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions"* (Joel 2:28-32), and St. Peter mentioned that this prophecy was fulfilled in the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:16, 17).

He is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of His Son as well (Gal. 4:6), *"the Spirit of Christ"* (1 Peter 1:11). He is also the *"Spirit of Truth"* (Jn. 14:17), *"When He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth..."* (Jn. 16:13).

The evidence of the Divinity of the Holy Spirit that He is One of the Holy Trinity: He is One with the Father and the Son. The Lord said to His disciples, *"Make disciples of all the nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"* (Matt. 28:19). Notice here it is said, **"in the name"** and not the names (also 1 Jn. 5:7).

His Divinity is proven also, that He is the Spirit of Life (Rom. 8:2; Ezek. 37:9, 10), and who can raise the dead except God alone. He is described in the creed by the title "The Life Giver." Also, He is the source of inspiration and in the Creed, He is the "Speaker in the prophets". That agrees with what St. Peter said in his letter, "*Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*" (2 Pet. 1:21, see also 2 Tim. 3:16; Acts 28:25).

RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit works within us, but He does not cancel our freedom. He leads us to do good, but He doesn't force us. He gives us strength and we are still free to choose whether or not to use it. If anyone lives in complete obedience to the Holy Spirit and in strong fellowship with Him, he should be a saint and grow to the highest degree of holiness.

However, many times one does the opposite and takes negative attitudes towards the Holy Spirit. The Bible gives us some examples of that...

SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

1- Quenching the Spirit: The right spiritual life is to be "*fervent in spirit*" (Rom. 12:11), but this fervency may not continue for internal or external reasons. For the internal causes, the apostle Paul says, "*Do not quench the Spirit*" (1 Macc. 5:19).

2- Grieving the Holy Spirit:

When a man falls in sin, he grieves the Holy Spirit who dwells in him. The Bible says, "*Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption*" (Eph. 4:30). Yet, God, in His love, when we fall, He tries to restore us again. His Holy Spirit convicts us of sin (Jn. 16:8). Therefore, His Spirit works within us to lead us to repentance. So we have to yield to the Holy Spirit and not to resist Him.

3. Resisting the Spirit: If anyone rejects the work of the Holy Spirit, he is resisting the Spirit. Likewise if a person takes a negative attitude and fights against the work of the Holy Spirit, he is resisting the Holy Spirit and will be in danger of a worse sin against the Holy Spirit which is:

BLASPHEMY AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT: This sin has no forgiveness. It is not denying the Divinity of the Holy Spirit, for those who renounced the Divinity of the Holy Spirit in the 4th century at the time of Macdonius' heresy then returned to the right faith and the church accepted them. It is rejecting every work of the Holy Spirit in the heart, mind and will, a complete rejection throughout one's lifetime, which leads to God's rejecting this person and the devil devours him.

"Blessed be Egypt My people"

(Isa. 19:25)



Some Biblical reasons of why we have to be proud of our native country, Egypt

- Egypt was the only country in the world which the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Family visited outside of His birthplace, Israel.
- Egypt has a distinguished place in the scripture. In Genesis, Egypt was likened to the garden of The Lord (Gen 3:10) and in revelation: *"The great city which spiritually is Egypt, where also the Lord was crucified"* (Rev. 11:8). That is for the great and continuous persecution which the Christian orthodox church suffered in Egypt throughout the ages. And that is why we can call Egypt, the second Jerusalem.
- Egypt became a refuge, not only for the Lord Jesus, but also for many prophets, like Abraham, (Gen. 12), Jacob (Gen. 46), Joseph (Gen. 37), Moses (Exodus 2), Jeremiah (Jer. 43:6,7).
- In Alexandria, Egyptian Jews translated the Old Testament into The Septuagint between about 25 and 150 B.C., and this became the Bible of the early church (see the encyclopedia of the Bible, volume 1, page. 662).
- The Egyptian Orthodox Church is a unique church which was a subject of a prophecy by Isaiah the prophet (750 B.C.). *"There will be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt"* (Isa 19:19). This prophecy was fulfilled when St. Mark the evangelist and author of the second gospel established the Egyptian Church - which is well known as the Church of Alexandria - in the middle of the first century.
- The church of Egypt is an Apostolic Church, the one that kept the true faith for all the churches of the world by defending the doctrine of the Divinity of Christ and of the Holy Spirit and dictating the Nicene Creed by St. Athanasious, the 20th pope of Alexandria.
- Also, Egypt was blessed by the appearances of our lady St. Mary in the church of Zeitoun (1968) and Shobra (1986). Egypt, which was

the "Mother of civilization" in the ancient times, has now become the mother of spirituality and blessing to the rest of the world, hence deserving the Lord's words: " *Blessed be Egypt My people*" (Isa 19:25).

From St. John, Magazine, Covina, CA - June 1991



Emergency Numbers

When in sorrow, call	John 14
When men fail you, call	Psalm 27
If you want to be fruitful, call	John 15
When you have sinned, call	Psalm 51
When you worry, call	Matt 6:19-34.
When you are in danger, call	Psalm 91.
When God seems far away, call	Psalm 139.
When your faith needs stirring, call	Hebrews 11.
When you are lonely and fearful, call	Psalm 23.
When you grow bitter and critical, call	1 Cor. 13.
For St. Paul's secret to happiness, call	Col. 3:12-17.
For idea of Christianity, call	1 Cor. 5:15-19.
When you feel down and out, call	Romans 8:31-39.
When you want peace and rest, call	Matt. 11:25-30.
When the world seems bigger than God, call	Psalm 90.
When you want Christian assurance, call	Romans 8:1-30.
When you leave home for labor or travel, call	Psalm 121.
When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call	Psalm 67.
For a great invention/opportunity, call	Isaiah 55.
When you want courage for a task, call	Joshua 1.
How to get along with fellowmen, call	Romans 12.
When you think of investments/returns, call	Psalm 27.
If your pocketbook is empty, call	Psalm 37.
If you are losing confidence in people, call	1 Cor. 13.
If people seem unkind, call	John 15.
If discouraged about your work, call	Psalm 126.
If you find the world growing small, and yourself great, call	Psalm 19.

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary. All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day! Feed your faith, and doubt will starve to death!

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE 2100



THE FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE THESSALONIANS

BY: DAVID GIRGIS

Author and Date: St. Paul refers to himself as the author in the letter, and the early church recognized him as such. The letter was probably written from Corinth around A.D. 51 and is considered one of St. Paul's earliest epistles.

Background History: Thessalonica was one of the first cities to be evangelized by St. Paul and Silas when they landed in Europe. A divine vision of a man from Macedonia inviting St. Paul to preach the gospel had drawn the two missionaries to that region. This was a port city and a commercial center located in the northwest corner of the Aegean Sea. It was one of the wealthiest trade centers of the Roman Empire, the capital, and the largest city of the province of Macedonia, with a population of about 200,000. St. Paul's plan was to build a church and plant it in the geographical center.

Themes: In First Thessalonians, St. Paul reviewed some of the basics of the faith and applied these truths to the believers' lives. He challenged them to persevere in godly living despite persecution. He extended the comfort of the Resurrection to those who were in mourning, and he spoke about the details of the Second Coming. In addition, St. Paul responded to the angry attacks of his Jewish opponents, who were jealous because Christians were drawing God-fearing Gentiles away from the local synagogue. St. Paul's opponents may have charged that his failure to return to Thessalonica proved that he was insincere. St. Paul devoted the first three chapters of his letter to correcting this false impression.

In a brief , St. Paul covered a wide spectrum of the essential doctrines of Christianity. These include such beliefs as the Trinity, the deity of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit, the nature of Scripture, the timing and the events of the Second Coming, the day of the Lord, assurance of salvation, conversion, sanctification, the Resurrection, the relation of patience to hope. Because First Thessalonians is one of St. Paul's earliest letters, it reveals much of what St. Paul preached during his second missionary journey. Evidently, the return of Christ was central to his message, for St. Paul answers many questions about the Second Coming. In fact, perhaps the most significant doctrinal contribution of this small letter is its detailed explanation of Christ's return.

From The Nelson study Bible: Thomas Nelson Publishers, Nashville



SMILE: Computer Help Desk

A woman called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was running it under Windows. The woman then responded, "No, my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window, and his is working fine!!!!"

I once received a fax with a note on the bottom, to fax it back to the sender when I was finished with it because he needed to keep it.

Tech Support: All right now double-click on the File Manager icon.

Customer: That's why I hate this Windows because of the icons. I'm a Protestant, and I don't believe in icons!

Tech Support: well, that's just an industry term, sir. I don't believe it was meant to."

Customer: "I don't care about any Industry Terms, I don't believe in icons."

Tech Support: 'Well why don't you click on the 'little picture' of a file cabinet? Is 'little picture' OK?

Customer: [click]

Customer: 'My computer crashed!'

Tech Support: It crashed?"

Customer: 'Yeah, it won't let me play my game.'

Tech Support: "All right, hit Control -Alt- Delete to reboot."

Customer: "No, it didn't crash. It crashed."

Tech Support: "Huh?"

Customer: "I crashed my game. That's what I said before. I crashed my spaceship and now it doesn't work."

Tech Support: "Click on 'File,' then 'New Game.'"

Customer: [pause] 'Wow! How'd you learn how to do that?'"

A woman called her printer manufacturer tech support complaining that she could not print yellow. All the other colors would print fine.

The tech support representative asked the woman to change ink cartridges, delete and reinstall the drivers....but nothing worked. After over two hours of troubleshooting, while he was about to tell the customer to send the printer in for repair. She asked quietly, "Should I try printing on piece of white paper instead of this yellow paper?"

A man attempting to set up his new printer called the printer's tech support number, complaining about the error message: "Can't find the printer". The man said he even held the printer up in front of the screen, but the computer still couldn't find it.

—



Coptic Youth Asking & His Grace Bishop Moussa Answering

“ From the youth Bishopric web site”

Question: What is Your Grace’s opinion on the incident which happened here recently of the woman whose hand was dripping oil and claimed she had conversations with St. Mary?

His Grace Bishop Moussa: Our church is not fond of these types of conversations with the saints. In our Coptic Orthodox concept and spirit, whenever we experience a miracle we hide it, or keep it restricted to only a few people, because we are always cautious of the intervention of Satan in these types of situations. He can deceive us and even appear as an angel of light. Once we begin to advertise the miracle, Satan comes inside and tries to pull us outside the goal of the miracle. Situations like this may start out correct, but end up Satanic because Satan comes to spoil everything. We tell, for example, of the miracles of the late Pope Kyrillos in order to strengthen the people, but there is a big difference between this and advertising a miracle for no clear benefit except self pride.

Question: Are we to socialize only with Christian people?

His Grace Bishop Moussa: Your spiritual love must be given to all people and not be isolated to just Christians. There is a big difference between friends and colleagues (acquaintances). Your friends should be Christian, to help you build your spiritual life, but you can have many colleagues in society at school, at universities, at work, etc.

When I say 'socialize with them', I mean be on good terms with them, have pure Christian love for them, caring and sharing with them. If they are sick you must visit them, if a family member or friend has passed away, you must go and give your condolences, if they are celebrating a feast, such as Ramadan, you must give them your best wishes. Therefore you must have pure Christian love towards them, but do not have an intimate relationship with them because they differ in their thoughts, their principles, their ideas, their philosophies and their practices. Have friends from within the church, and have as many colleagues as you like in society. Express your Christian love to them; go with them when it is right, and withdraw from them when they do wrong.

When He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth

(John 16:13)

Meeting with His Holiness Pope Shenouda III

The Church's Committee met with His Holiness at the Archdiocese in Cedar Grove, NJ on Thursday night May 10, 2001. During this brief meeting the committee expressed the church's need for a permanent priest and gave a summary of all the services and activities of the church.

With this request, a packet was presented to His Holiness that contained a brief history of the church, a list of Coptic families in the church's geographical area of service, and the financial state of the church.

His Holiness was clearly pleased with the status of the church and promised to consider the matter.

The 24th Anniversary of Fr. Bishoy Demetrious' Ordination

The church of the Archangel Michael celebrated the 24th Anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Bishoy Demetrious on May 22nd.

We thank his reverence for shepherding our church since it's establishment in 1989 till today.

May the Lord preserve his life and support his service for many years and peaceful times.



CHURCH SERVICES, JUNE, 2001

Fridays, June 1,8, 15, 22 and 29

-7:30 PM-8:30 PM	Hymns Lesson
-8:30PM-9:00PM	Arabic Bible Study
	Midnight Prayers
-9:00PM-11:00PM	Midnight Praises

Saturday, June 2,9, 16, 23 and 30

-8:30AM-11:30AM	Divine Liturgy
-11:30AM-1:00PM	Sunday School & Youth group meeting

COPTIC FEASTS

June 1	————	Entry of the Lord into Egypt
June 3	————	The Holy Pentecost Feast
June 4	————	Beginning of the Apostles Fast
June 10	————	Departure of St. Abraam of Fayoum