Gracious Spirit, Dwell with Me

1082

Author Thomas Toke Lynch
Composer 13th century plainsong melody

Ezekiel 36: 25-27
John 4: 21-24
Psalm 28: 7

Thoughts on the Text

This song of prayer is one that challenges and stretches any believer. In fact, as I read through the text, I do so with caution. The prayer for the Spirit to dwell within us requires something of us. It transforms us and takes over the lives we often try to keep a firm grip around and control.

I think of the Pentecost scripture from Acts when the Spirit filled the lungs of the tired and weary disciples. We read how the Spirit transforms them, but surely some of them tried to resist. Think of all they had been through in the 50 days prior to the Spirit's arrival. They wanted the Spirit, but maybe they were not quite sure if they really want to be changed (who is?). They had to be a little suspicious and tired of waiting.

And then it happened. The breath of God filled their deflated lungs and the words they were saying were something different. The original call of "follow me" has come full circle as the breathe this new breath.

May we be so vulnerable as to let this Spirit dwell within our being. This hymn reminds us that the Spirit is gracious, truthful, holy, and mighty. It is the spirit Who changes us all, even the most stubborn of us. It is the spirit Who, much like a potter, can transform us into something a little more like the Jesus we read about.

This hymn is mindful of the fact that we will from time to time slip up and go with the rest of the world. In fact as we sing the text we have to ask for God to be our strength and shield less we pick up the weaponry of human hands.

Is this a song that we are prepared to sing with the fullness of our being? May these worlds penetrate our souls as we ask the Spirit to abide with us.

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