

Searching for the Best in Me

Series No. 1

This series is dedicated to the students of Divine Word University or any other young person who might like to benefit from it

The Holy Spirit versus negative spirits



Introduction

What better time to start a series than the time of Pentecost, where we are told that the Holy Spirit filled the apostle with a wonderful knowledge, courage and assurance.

Jesus promised: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, the Spirit of Truth, to stay with you forever". Jn 14:15

It is amazing how many bad spirits were driven out by Jesus, so that the Holy Spirit could take full possession of people and of the surrounding. This is a spirit of peace and harmony, of joy and boldness in the Lord.

The Holy Spirit is ready to empower and sustain us with His gifts:

**wisdom, understanding,
knowledge, counsel, fortitude,
piety and fear of the Lord.**

Sr Mary Anthida Kueckmann SSpS
Counselor
Dr Catherine Nongkas PhD
Senior Lecturer, Education Faculty

Present situation

How can it be that today there is so much fear among young people, yes people in general. There is fear of the spirit of the dead, fear of the devil, fear of witchcraft and sanguma, fear of so many negative spiritual influences all around us.

Some people and some students have involved themselves in cult practices, calling on evil spirits to enter into their lives, so that they can frighten others and spread a negative influence around them.

Some point to others, often innocent people, as having a bad spirit and need to be tortured or killed.

In the May Issue of the Catholic Reporter students admitted that they 'feel personally threatened by sorcery.'

"It is like the evil part of the human having the upper hand in the inner struggle between good and bad." (Fr. Giorgio Licini)



Where am I in all of this?

Since I am a child of my culture, there are many cultural beliefs regarding different spirits around me.

Am I afraid to visit a cemetery or a memorial place?

Do I believe that a person far away can do me magical harm?

How can I overcome the fear that is in my heart?

How do I look at others who possibly consider harming me?

Am I aware of my deep-seated fears and concerns?

Am I afraid that a previous side-step will follow me forever?



How can I bring out the Best in me?

In addition to being a child of my culture, I am also a child of God whose Holy Spirit is present in all positive aspects of my culture.

While not denying that the devil exists, I confirm the supremacy and the all over-riding strength of the Holy Spirit who is the personified Love.

I will read the Bible and look for the many times the phrase: "Do not be afraid..." appears.

I can look at my fears and take small steps to overcome them and so build up courage and strength for my life.

I can share my fears with a Pastor, Chaplain, Counselor, or any trusted person who believes in the Power of the Cross and the Spirit of the Resurrection.

**"If you have faith,
you have nothing to fear."**

St. John Paul II

during his visit in Mt. Hagen, May 8th, 1984

Prayer

Jesus, many times you have told us, "do not be afraid, for I am with you".

You have overcome the world, the devil and all evil spirits. We believe in your supreme power over anything in this world. We trust in your all powerful protection and love.

Just as the Holy Spirit empowered the Apostles on Pentecost to come out from behind the locked doors, so empower us today to overcome the fear of evil spirits and rejoice in the strength and courage of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

