

that took place, because the Church was just starting. Now that the Church has existed for many centuries, these are no longer needed in the same way.

We heard in the first reading that Elijah had not experienced God's presence in the mighty wind that crushed the rocks, but Elijah did recognize God's presence in the tiny whispering sound. Wind is helpful to us when it comes gently. When it comes to us violently, such as a tornado or hurricane, it can be destructive to us. Which would we rather have? Again, water is powerful because it sustains life, and when that power comes to us gently, it is good for us. Water can also be powerful in a tsunami or some way that is not good for us. Which would we rather have? I think that we would rather have something powerful yet not destructive.

The Lord is omnipotent. He has unlimited power. He can do anything that He wants. We have to respect the Lord's omnipotence and not take His power and His presence for granted. Yet the Lord does not use His power to destroy us or overwhelm us, but to help us. This can help us to understand why the Lord would manifest His presence to Elijah in a tiny whispering sound. This helps us understand why the Lord Jesus calms the waters once He steps into the boat.

No doubt that the Apostles experienced the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, when a strong driving wind filled the Upper Room where they were gathered, and the Holy Spirit appeared as tongues of fire. The Holy Spirit filled the room and began the mission of the Church. The strong driving wind did not harm those present. It was a sign that the Holy Spirit was beginning a new creation. Just as a mighty wind swept over the waters at the beginning of creation, so the Holy Spirit brought a strong driving wind as the Church was just beginning.

We should not doubt however that the Holy Spirit is also present in the Sacrament of Confirmation now. No, when a young man or woman is confirmed, there is no strong driving wind, there are no tongues of fire. There could be, but that is not usually the case. However, there is a hidden power and a hidden presence of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament when it is received worthily and with faith. It is the power that continues to give us spiritual life and gives us the different charisms that we need to fulfill the vocation that God has called us to.

Part of the preparation that is needed to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation is being able to recognize and pay attention to the movements of the Holy Spirit. To follow the Holy Spirit, we need to recognize His presence. Now, if the Holy Spirit's presence is a hidden presence, then we ourselves have to be hidden in some way, in order to recognize Him. We will

not find the Holy Spirit in noise. We will not find the Holy Spirit by allowing ourselves to be caught up in distractions. We will not find the Holy Spirit in superficial things.

Rather, we will find the Holy Spirit by quieting our minds and not seeking attention. When we quiet our minds, our inner senses can detect that tiny whispering sound that Elijah heard on the mountain, except that we will hear that sound in our hearts. When we turn away from distractions, we can notice the different ways that the Holy Spirit tugs upon our hearts. When the Holy Spirit is part of our lives, we will notice a depth to our souls that we had not noticed before.

Why have the Holy Spirit in our lives? When the Holy Spirit is present in our lives, He brings a calm to our lives. Of course, it the Lord Jesus and the Father that send the Holy Spirit. If the Lord Jesus brought calm to the disciples in the boat, He can certainly send His Holy Spirit to us to bring us calm. The Holy Spirit drives away chaos and brings order. Sometimes it can be difficult to let go of our own plans and follow the Holy Spirit. It seems to be more chaotic to be led by another, especially if it seems like someone we do not know. But, we can know the Spirit and His ways. Also, the Holy Spirit brings order to our lives, not chaos. The chaos comes from following our own whims and emotions, which we know can change constantly.

We look to our Blessed Mother to help us to be hidden and to be calm. She gives us an example to how to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. She had that hidden life and she found that whispering sound, and she opened her heart to the Holy Spirit, who overshadowed her at the Annunciation. She also teaches us the importance of listening to the Holy Spirit. Her life was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she was obedient to the directions of the Holy Spirit, and the Lord was able to do amazing things through her.

As we approach the altar, we ask the Lord to help us pray. In our prayer, we experience that hidden life and we meet the Holy Spirit. Having the Holy Spirit in our lives does not mean that there will be lots of miracles that will happen. However, when we are able to overcome sin and grow in virtue, these are signs of God's power in us, and a sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit. We ask the Lord to teach us to pray, and to quiet our minds and hearts, that we too may hear that tiny whispering sound.