

# realpeople

the gospel in everyday language



## In today's readings:

A story of prayer, the laying of hands and receiving the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:5-8,14-17

In the Spirit Jesus was raised to life. 1 Peter 3:15-18

The Spirit of truth will be with you forever. John 14:15-21

## Next week:

Ascension Sunday.

Acts 1:1-11; Ephesians

1:17-23; Matthew 28:16-20

## In a nutshell

The Spirit of truth is in you and will be with you forever. Today's Gospel points to the gift of the Holy Spirit in the Church; that is, the continuing presence of the risen Christ in our midst. The Holy Spirit guides us in the way of Christ and draws us back to the truth, no matter how often we might fail and make mistakes.



## Late night TV

*In all life's daily decisions as to how we spend our time and energies, the Spirit of truth calls us to fullness of life.*

I returned home around midnight after being out with friends. Not feeling particularly sleepy, I aimlessly switched on the TV and flicked the channels. A Star Trek movie was on. I remembered seeing it when it first came out on the big screen. I had enjoyed it then. I settled back to enjoy it again.

After about 15 minutes I began to feel uneasy. I had a sense that this was not the best way to spend my time. I noted the feeling and went back to watching the show. The unease continued to gnaw at me.

Now, I must admit I am a bit of Star Trek fan, but as Captain James T Kirk entered tense negotiations with Star Fleet Command, I began to negotiate with my own conscience. Why am I watching this? I asked myself. After all, I've seen the movie before. Sure, it was good, but not *that* good. If I continue this way it will be 2 am

by the time I get to bed. When I get up tomorrow will my life be any richer because I watched a rerun of Captain Kirk slaying aliens and saving the galaxy? I could be using this sleepless time in so many other ways. I could be reading a good book that feeds and stretches my mind. I could be planning tomorrow's day. I could be reflecting on some aspect of my life which requires attention. I could be praying for someone who needs prayers.

The subtle futility of my current choice suddenly hit me: This is not life with a capital L. Getting sucked into watching late night TV reruns might appear to be an acceptable social past time. But as a Christian, it's not living life to the full.

Decision made. Bad luck, Captain Kirk. I switched off the television. (Allen)

## Alleluia!

During this Easter season be attentive to the prompting of the Spirit.

## Thinking things through

I was listening to a personal development program on tape. The presenter, a dynamic and internationally renowned speaker, was full of techniques for improving one's lifestyle: how to set effective goals, how to get more out of relationships, how to improve your financial situation and so on. Many of the techniques were excellent and the speaker had outstanding communication skills. I was impressed...to a point. I sensed something missing. On further reflection it became clearer

to me that the speaker's underlying assumptions did not completely align with my Christian beliefs. For him, life has value and meaning only in so far as a person assigns it a value or meaning. For me, my life's meaning is more than just a decision I make; my happiness is more than just the emotional state I create. Whatever happens, I know I am loved by God, my Creator, the source of all life. (Anna)



## Think...Pray...Act

- Think of a time when your values and actions were in complete harmony. How did this feel?
- Think of a time when you didn't take the most truthful path, but later corrected it. What did it take to make the change?
- Spirit of truth, help us to grow closer to Christ in all life's decisions.
- Make one decision which will give clearer focus and direction to the way you live your Christian values.



**RealPeople** offers faith reflections from the saints and prophets of everyday life.

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