



*I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. (Small Catechism, The Third Article, Part I)*

Subjective faith in Christ-crucified, risen, and ascended is the means through which God, by His grace, gifts us His salvation. None of us, no matter how intellectually or physically gifted, can rightly believe and free him/herself from his/her sinful condition. Just as God brings about our physical births, He effects our births "from above." And He grants His saving faith not just to the brilliant and strong but to the most vulnerable among us as well. Yes, even tiny babies, people with significant disabilities who are poorly communicative, and people who are comatose, may have this saving faith. In fact, when facing challenges in this vale of tears, they are often less likely than the rest of us to lose that faith gifted to them. Indeed, God chooses the weak to shame the strong, ultimately exposing the weakness in all of us! Our weaker brothers and sisters are truly indispensable to Him and to us, as we show through our sacrificial love for them, fruit of the Holy Spirit working in us.

We thank God for His gifts to us of forgiveness, life, and salvation, for the gift of community and the privilege of caring for each other. Joyous and blessed High Feast of the Pentecost!