

ΕΚΚΛΗΣΙΑ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΠΛΗΡΩΜΑΤΟΣ  
Apostolic Church of the Pleroma

*Delivered by Tau Phosphoros  
to the Parish of St. Ambelain  
on Sunday, May 10, 2015*

YEAR B - SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Greetings my brethren, the Lord is risen! Today is the 6th Sunday of the Easter season, & the Sunday before the Feast of the Ascension of our Lord.

In our reading from 1st John we encounter some brief but very mystical passages. We read, "For all that has been born of God conquers the cosmos." So, what is this conquering of the cosmos? Simply, it is winning the victory over our lower selves, our psychic & hylic natures. For we are told in John's Revelation that to the one who conquers will be given the Morning Star; that is, the Light of Gnosis & the salvation into Eternal Life that comes with it.

But this transformation of ourselves is not the end of our Work, it is only the beginning. Once you have received salvation through the Holy Gnosis, the Logos of God works through you to help bring others to that sanctifying Light. Through this Work the archons themselves may praise the Most High & help accomplish His mission in the cosmos. There is a doctrine, in fact, that holds that the entire cosmos itself may be purified & spiritualized & caused to become a perfect creation; not of the Demiurge, but of the restored & regenerated Heavenly Adam. But the first step toward this general restoration is our individual restoration & regeneration.

Now, we know that to attain Gnosis is one thing, and that to live in that Gnosis is quite another. To live in the Gnosis is to live in the Eternal Now, & for that "Now" to be filled with the vision of the Divine Light. The Hesychasts train themselves through repetitive prayer, others through meditation & contemplation of Scripture. Whatever the method we use, the point is to seek to maximize our attunement to the Divine Consciousness, & to minimize all that which distracts from that consciousness. This is simple in theory, but very difficult in practice. There are monks who spend their entire lives cloistered away & yet are not able to escape distraction. But the one who has truly & permanently attained to the Eternal Light of Gnosis need not lock himself away, for the things of this world are no longer distractions but opportunities to purify & rectify the flawed creation & to awaken others from their drug-like slumber into sober watchfulness.

In addition to the ascetic methods for obtaining the Beatific Vision, the other method - equally powerful & equally important - is what we are doing right here, right now: participating in the Most Holy Sacrament, the Eucharistic rite. Unlike some modern Apostolic movements, we do not view the Eucharist as merely symbolic; but rather, we believe in the actual transubstantiation of the Bread & Wine into the psychic & pneumatic Body & Blood of Christ. That its hylic nature remains unchanged is of no consequence, since it is merely the vehicle by which we may assimilate the spiritual substance. And this assimilation of spiritual substance gradually effects a transformation of our own selves into our perfected form.

But these methods are not exclusive of one another. The efficacy of the Sacrament is assured, but we must constantly work to aid the progressive transformation & eventual permanency of the spiritualization.