

Greetings to you in this season of the Church following Pentecost; the feast celebrating the birth of the Church with the giving of the Holy Spirit. One of the things confusing me in the current struggle within the Anglican Church of Canada over same gender relationships is that some folks, like me, believe the Holy Spirit directs us away from sexually active same gender relationships, and some folks believe the Holy Spirit gives approval of such relationships. The Holy Spirit will not teach one thing as truth to some people and the opposite of that as truth to others. For me, this is the crucial question facing our church and one I hope and pray you, as those commissioned by the church to study and review the changing of the canon on marriage in our church, will give serious consideration to.

Having experienced a little Pentecost myself more than thirty years ago and finding my experience of receiving the Holy Spirit to be very like that experienced by those present at that first Pentecost, and subsequently in the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament when the Holy Spirit came upon the Church, I hold the Scriptures as received to be true. I realize that not everyone holds the Scriptures in the same esteem and so it is difficult in these days to refer to them as authoritative.

I have met Anglicans who have had similar experiences, some of them people with same gender attraction. I encourage you to look at the website of the Zacchaeus Fellowship for some of their stories are posted there at [www.zacchaeus.ca](http://www.zacchaeus.ca). These folks have struggled for years within the Anglican Church of Canada to have their stories be heard and I hope and pray you will honour them as fellow Anglicans by at least reading their stories.

There is no easy solution to this issue. I realize we need also to honour those who experience same gender attraction and have not had the same experience as those mentioned above. In the power of the Holy Spirit I believe we can all work together to discern the will of our great and glorious God.

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