"Among all the beautiful things that have happened to you, which one has thrown a new light over everything?"

"TRACES OF THE CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE"

11. The Experience of the Divine
by Luigi Giussani*

One day, however, "they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting … and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."[1]

And so suddenly they understood who the man that they had followed was. The experience of their encounter with Him and the long, fervent, anxious, and uncertain period that they had shared with Him suddenly became another absolutely unforeseen and disconcerting experience: divine reality, the encounter, the sharing of life with God–luminous, sure, and strong.

Christ, so very present and concrete to us–one of us–is at the same time the One Beyond who resolves the enigma of existence. Christ is the meaning of history and the Lord of the universe, the viewpoint that explains everything. The experience of Pentecost constitutes the advent of a *Christian culture*, the definitive discovery of the "true light that enlightens all who come into this world."[2]

The first gesture recorded in the Acts of the Apostles is the first great affirmation of this new culture, this new and definitive vision of reality "not revealed by flesh and blood, but by the Father who generates all things."[3] Immediately, and before peoples from all corners of the known earth, Peter announces the discovery of Christ as the cornerstone of God's plan. This is the unremitting cry of this awareness, the powerful testimony that spreads throughout the world and throughout history from the very first Christian sermon.

The entire human experience is illuminated by God's perspective. It is the tidings of truth's definitive criterion, the advent of the definitive culture.

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[1] *See* Acts 2:2.4.
[2] *See* John 1:9.
[3] *See* Matthew 16:17.