

Once a man got a notice from the gas service telling him he still owed from last month the sum of \$0.00. He ignored the bill, chalking it up to computer error, till he got another notice, more strongly worded, saying he still owed \$0.00. A third notice arrived, threatening to cut off his service unless he paid his bill. So, he pulled out his checkbook, wrote a check for \$0.00, and mailed it in. That took care of the problem.

Computers are programmed to act a certain way. And we are like computers, we've been programmed, too. Our life has taught us how to act. Life has created laws within us, and we live by those laws.

We spot them easily in other people. Have you ever said something like: "Don't bother asking her about it, she'll never go for it." Or, "Let him do it, we know he'll get it done on time."? We spot the laws other people live by, and we deal with those people accordingly.

We've all got laws we live by; we've all been programmed. For example, some people can never relax until after they work. There's a law inside them that says, "You must earn the right to relax." Other people never express their feelings honestly. There's a law inside them that says, "You must never express your own feelings if they will hurt someone else." Others have a hard time doing what they enjoy doing. There's a law inside them that says, "You must never please yourself, you must always please someone else." Some laws are good--they help order our lives in peace. Other laws get in the way--they destroy us before they do any good.

Laws are nothing new; they've been with us since Moses. You remember that story. Fifty days after Passover God came down to Mount Sinai in fire and a deafening trumpet blast to reveal to Moses the law. Today, fifty days after Easter, God came down to Jerusalem in tongues of fire and a deafening wind to reveal to the Church the new law, the law of the Holy Spirit. Just as from Mount Sinai every nation heard God's voice, so in Jerusalem on the first Pentecost, every nation heard God's message. Pentecost is to the Church what Mount Sinai was to the Hebrews--the revelation of the law of God.

Today it is the law of the Holy Spirit which governs the Church. A spirit of justice, a spirit of wisdom, a spirit of freedom rules the Church. My brothers and sisters, it's that spirit we want to govern our lives, it's that spirit we want to be the law within us.

This Pentecost, let's listen to our laws. Listen for when we say, "I should, I have to, I can't." Those are the laws within. And if they are not the laws of the Spirit, then let that Spirit breathe in us, let that fire purge us to make our laws one with God's.