

Lesson 57

Receive the Holy Spirit

Introduction:

In the previous lesson, we saw that when Jesus went to pray in the Garden at Gethsemane, He taught the disciples how to wait for Him. It had required active participation on their part. They were to be:

1. Restful, not busy or sleeping.
2. Watchful.
3. Prayerfully seeking God's will.
4. Prepared to act.
5. Responding immediately to His commands.

As soon as Jesus finished praying He was arrested, tried, condemned, crucified and buried. After remaining in the grave for three days and three nights He rose from the dead. He appeared to Mary Magdalene that morning and to His uncle, Cleopas and another disciple named Simon as they walked along the road to Emmaus that afternoon. Cleopas and Simon raced back to Jerusalem to tell Peter and the other disciples that they had seen Jesus alive! While the two were telling their story to the disciples, Jesus suddenly appeared to them all.

Group Discussion:

1. Do you think the disciples were waiting for Jesus to return as He had taught them to? Why or why not?
2. If you had been with the disciples when Jesus appeared in their midst, what would your reaction have been?

Reading The Scripture:

Mark 16:13-14, Luke 24:33-43, and John 20:19-23

Jesus Appears to the Apostles

Mark 16:13-14, Luke 24:33-43, and John 20:19-23

(Gospels forged together into one seamless story, in collaboration with New American Standard Bible, authored by Michael Gibson, Founder of Spirit & Truth, dba Key 2 Changes: "Follow Me: A Message from God", a journey with Jesus)

31 AD, April 27, Sunday night - Nisan 19

And they arose that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them, saying, "The Lord has really risen, and has appeared to Simon." And they began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread. And while they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." And He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen. But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit. And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples therefore rejoiced when they saw the Lord. And while they still could not believe it for joy and were marveling, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" And they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish; and He took it and ate it before them. Jesus therefore said to them again, "Peace be

with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

Doubting Thomas
Matthew 28:16-17 and John 20:24-31

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31 AD, May 5, Monday evening - Nisan 27

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I shall see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe." But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. And after eight days again His disciples were inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst, and said, "Peace be with you." Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand, and put it into My side; and be not unbelieving, but believing." Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed." Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

The Commands:

1. Peace be with you.
2. Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.
3. Receive the Holy Spirit.
4. Peace be with you.
5. Be not unbelieving, but believing.

The Lesson:

The sudden appearance of Jesus in the room startled the disciples so He immediately commanded them to be at peace. It had been just five days before, at the Last Supper that Jesus had told them, "*A little while, and you will no longer see Me; and again a little while, and you will see Me?*" Yet they were surprised to see Him. Then Jesus reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they hadn't even believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

At first the disciples thought they were seeing a ghost. But Jesus reassured them. First by showing them His nail-pierced hands and feet. And secondly, He invited them to touch Him and told them that a spirit did not have flesh and bones as He had. With the physical evidence as proof the disciples began to rejoice as they realized that it was truly Jesus who was standing in their midst. At the Last Supper, Jesus had also foretold of the disciple's great joy. "*But I will see you again, and your heart will rejoice, and no one will take your joy away from you.*"

Having eaten a piece of broiled fish that the disciples had given Him, Jesus told them "*Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.*" And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said, "*Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained.*"

Group Discussion:

3. What had the Father sent Jesus to do? (See Luke 4:18) Also to make disciples, use the gifts of the Spirit, obey the Father, love others, forgive people's sins, etc.
4. What does Jesus want His disciple's to do? The same thing.
5. Since Jesus had told the disciples on two different occasions at the Last Supper that He would be sending them the Holy Spirit, why do you think He had to command them to receive the Holy Spirit? Because the Holy Spirit is a gift and a gift must be received. (For example: God sent His Word, His prophets, His Son, and His salvation ... all of them are gifts and must be received to be beneficial.
6. How do you believe Jesus' last statement above applies to you?
7. Why do you think Jesus breathed on the disciples?

The Lesson Continued:

There are many opinions concerning why Jesus breathed on the disciples when He commanded them to "Receive the Holy Spirit." We will attempt to cover the most predominant ones in this lesson.

- In Hebrew, the term for the Holy Spirit is Ruwach Qodesh, literally the "breath of God". Jesus breathing on His disciples would have reminded them of what they knew ... *"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit"* and foreshadowed of what was to come ... *and suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.*
- Another thought is that Jesus was demonstrating how the Holy Spirit works; first you must receive a breath of air and then expel it. In other words, like a gift, you must receive it first before it can be given away.
- Some believe this was a sign of being "born again", since God breathed on Adam to give him life.
- Others believe that Jesus actually **imparted** the Holy Spirit at that time and serves as evidence that all of His followers must receive the Holy Spirit to be saved. Then, at a later time, they would receive a **baptism (immersion or overwhelming)** with the Holy Spirit for the purpose of being clothed with power (equipped with spiritual gifts) in order to be effective witnesses. Bible scholars point to two different Scriptures that speak to life giving water (the Holy Spirit) in support of this idea.
 - The first Scripture, John 4:13-14 refers to Jesus **imparting** the Holy Spirit so that an individual might have eternal life. In the passage, Jesus is speaking to the woman at the well in Samaria. He says to her, *"Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."* This passage connects the idea that anyone who drinks the water that Jesus gives him (the Holy Spirit) has access to eternal life. In this case the water is enclosed in a container ... the well. Also note that the water is contained within the individual. This supports the idea that the individual believer has access to this source of life or may give it to anyone who asks him for a drink of it. The water for the most part remains hidden.
 - The second Scripture, John 7:37-39 refers to Jesus **baptizing (immersing or overwhelming)** an individual with the Holy Spirit for the purpose of clothing the disciples with power (spiritual gifts) that they might be effective witnesses. *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast (Tabernacles), Jesus stood and cried*

out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘**From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.**’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. This passage speaks to believers who are giving away the life giving water (the Holy Spirit) In other words ... witnesses. In this case it is not a single well of water but multiple streams. And it is not just a spring bubbling up but large quantities of water ... flowing rivers. The rivers of water are exposed for all to see and anyone may drink from them freely.

When Jesus told the disciples to receive the Holy Spirit they would have undoubtedly recalled the things that He had spoken to them about the Holy Spirit at the Last Supper. These statements form the **core** of our understanding on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

What thoughts come to your mind concerning what Jesus said.

- The **Father** is the giver of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:16)
- The Holy Spirit will remain with Jesus’ disciples **forever**. (John 14:16)
- The disciples will have an **intimate knowledge** of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:17)
- The Holy Spirit will **live with** the disciples. (John 14:17)
- The Holy Spirit will be **inside** the disciples. (John 14:17)
- God the Father will send the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ **name**. (John 14:26)
- The Holy Spirit will **teach** the disciples all things. (John 14:26)
- The Holy Spirit will bring to **remembrance** everything Jesus has said to His disciples. (John 14:26)
- **Jesus**, Himself sends the Holy Spirit. (John 15:26) John the Baptist also testified to this when he said, *He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*”
- The Holy Spirit is **truth**. (John 15:26)
- The Holy Spirit will bear witness of **Jesus**. (John 15:26)
- The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning **sin** because they do not believe in Jesus. (John 16:8&9)
- The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning **righteousness** because Jesus has been raised from the dead. (John 16:8&10)
- The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning **judgment** because Satan, the ruler of this world (kosmos–adornment/illusion) has been judged. (John 16:8&11)
- The Holy Spirit will **guide** the disciples into all truth. (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit will not speak on His own **initiative**. (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit will speak only what He **hears**. (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit will **speak**. (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit will tell you about the **future**. (John 16:13)
- The Holy Spirit will **glorify** Jesus. (John 16:14)
- The Holy Spirit will give the disciples **understanding** of everything that Jesus possesses. (John 16:14)

Jesus also made other statements to the disciples about the Holy Spirit, what thoughts come to your mind?

- The heavenly Father gives the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** Him. (Luke 11:13)
- No one can enter the kingdom of God without being **born** of the Spirit (John 3:5)

- When a person is born again by the Spirit it is like the wind. You don't know where the wind came from or where it is going because it goes where it wishes ... you just **hear** the sound of it. (John 3:8)
- The Holy Spirit will clothe the disciples with **power** from on high. (Luke 24:49)

Eight days after Jesus' initial encounter with the disciples He appeared to them again while they were in the Galilee. This time Thomas was with them. After greeting them, Jesus proves His identity to Thomas and then commands them to believing, not doubting. Then He proceeded to place a prophetic blessing on all those who would not see Him, as the disciples had, but believe in Him anyhow.

Group Discussion:

8. Why do you think Jesus blessed those who would believe in Him even though they had never seen Him? They were people of faith and deserving of reward because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. Many are called but few are chosen.
9. According to the book of Acts the Holy Spirit can be bestowed upon individuals after they have been baptized in Jesus name through the laying of hands by an apostle. (Acts 8:18) Does that verse apply today? Why or why not?

The Point Of The Lesson:

Be sure you receive the Holy Spirit.

Application: Read the following passages of Scripture:

- Acts 2:1-4 "clothing with power"
- Acts 2:33 "hear and see"
- Acts 2:38-39 "will receive"
- Acts 2:43 "the apostles have power"
- Acts 3:22-23 "Jesus is sent to you ... obey or perish"
- Acts 4:29-31 "prayer for signs and wonders and a bold testimony"
- Acts 6:5-8 "Stephen receives the laying on of hands and does signs and wonders"
- Acts 8:5-19 "Philip goes to Samaria and the people are clothed with power"
- Acts 9:17-18 "Paul receives the Holy Spirit and gets baptized"
- Acts 10:43-48 "Cornelius and his household receive the Holy Spirit"
- Acts 19:1-6 "John's baptism versus baptism with the Holy Spirit"
- 1 Corinthians, chapters 12 & 14 "gifts of the Spirit"
- 1 Timothy 4:14 "Timothy gets a gift"

I Will Put My Spirit Within You
Ezekiel 36:26-27

²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And **I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.**