

The Holy Spirit #4

INTRO: We've been looking into God's Word to answer the question raised in Acts 2:12, "Whatever could this mean?" The coming of the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers changed the world forever! We have a helper and comforter living within us and HE IS GOD HIMSELF! But sadly, often this quiet person of the Trinity is overlooked and taken for granted. Instead of leaning on HIM, we try to live the Christian life on our own efforts.

TEXT: *When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force--no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them. There were many Jews staying in Jerusalem just then, devout pilgrims from all over the world. When they heard the sound, they came on the run. Then when they heard, one after another, their own mother tongues being spoken, they were thunderstruck. They couldn't for the life of them figure out what was going on, and kept saying, "Aren't these all Galileans? How come we're hearing them talk in our various mother tongues? Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; Visitors from Mesopotamia, Judea, and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene; Immigrants from Rome, both Jews and proselytes; Even Cretans and Arabs! "They're speaking our languages, describing God's mighty works!" Their heads were spinning; they couldn't make head or tail of any of it. They talked back and forth, confused: "What's going on here?" (Acts 2:1-12) MSG*

I) John 14:11-31 NKJV *Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. "A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father's who sent Me. "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I. "And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me. But that the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do. Arise, let us go from here.*

A) Verses 1-6 Jesus tells of coming for His own

B) Verse 7-10 Jesus tells us that He and the Father are One

C) Jesus had about 500 followers when He returned to Heaven. Yet under the power of the Holy Spirit God gathered thousands into the Kingdom... the greater works Jesus spoke of began!

1) V. 16 Jesus promised to send another Comforter

2) The Greek word Paracletos is one called or sent alongside to help another...another translation might be an advocate or comforter. The verb form of this word means to exhort and reminds us of the Holy Spirit's role in guiding and directing us into God's will.

3) Now as believers, we have two advocates, Jesus in Heaven praying and interceding for us has dealt with the accuser and The Holy Spirit in us to guide, comfort, strengthen and exhort!

4) Satan will gladly work to help us forget this tremendous gift and blessing that is to empower us to live as our Lord Jesus lived.

- 5) Every sin problem or event in our lives is dealt with by the Lord Jesus!
 - (a) We need to take it too Him to speed the process!
 - (b) The Lord Jesus is our advocate for our sin
 - (c) The HOLY SPIRIT is our advocate for empowerment, guidance, and comfort
 - (d) The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin, but it is Jesus' role to forgive sins –that is delegation of power in the Trinity

II) Romans 8:26-27 NKJV *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Or from the MESSAGE it reads: Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God.*

- A) Have you ever been so tired or exhausted that you didn't know what to say when you wanted to pray?
 - 1) The Holy Spirit indwells us to help is in times of ignorance, infirmities, and especially in intercession
 - 2) We are responsible for doing what God calls us to do—to live in such a way that the Holy Spirit will live in and saturate our beings
 - 3) The Holy Spirit helps us pray when we don't know how or what to pray
 - 4) The Holy Spirit makes intercession in line with God's Word – after all, He wrote it!
 - 5) We need to learn to allow the Holy Spirit to pray for us and through us!
- B) The Great End Result of Receiving the Holy Spirit
 - 1) To do the great and high calling of our Lord Jesus
 - 2) Qualifies us for highest and most effective service to the Lord—winning people to Christ!
 - 3) Sadly, we have somewhat lost this in the church
 - 4) Everything we do as believers and the Body of Christ is toward offering the Gospel message to the lost
 - 5) We receive many more benefits from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but the great aim is our consecrated usefulness within the framework of the Kingdom of God. The whole framework is to win the lost and it is for this reason that Jesus gave His life!
 - 6) Never forget this... we can get caught up in the amazing supernatural life in the spirit and forget that that life we can now enjoy has one purpose... to empower us to be used to reach the lost with the Gospel and that Jesus paid the price for our gift and eternal life with His very life!

III) John 16:7-11 NKJV *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

- A) Jesus said He had to go so that the Helper could come to us!
- B) How can we know that Jesus rose from the dead?
 - 1) Proof is that the Holy Spirit came to us!
 - 2) We are the proof of the resurrection because the Holy Spirit indwells us!
- C) Sputnik story...
 - 1) Soviets launched and announced it was up there. For the most part we could not see it. US Scientists could not find it, but did know it had gone up. There were listening stations around the world that heard its “beep beep” and if they knew its code could tell it was up there in orbit. It was known that the beep beep could only be heard and verified if it was actually up there and in orbit.
 - 2) Day of Pentecost was the same sort of thing. The spiritual beep beep was the tongues that listeners heard. It drove Satan to anger! We have the inward evidence of the risen Christ when we have the infilling of the Holy Spirit! We have to be sensitively tuned to be able to hear the beep beep in the spiritual realm.
 - 3) When we are tuned into the Holy Spirit, He will direct our steps and show us what we need to see and know to share the Gospel and keep on the right path!