

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER

Week 2 – Forty Days

September 19, 2023

Let's MARVEL at the Holy Spirit's ministry in the OT....

- God the Holy Spirit, along with God the Father, and God the Son created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:2). By the Spirit the heavens were adorned (Job 26:13). The Spirit of God “hovered” over the waters – to flutter, to move, to shake.
- The Holy Spirit regenerated. He regenerates – then and now! The Holy Spirit is eternal! The Holy Spirit is the source of new life. Another word for regeneration is “rebirth.” The number of OT saints is wrapped up in this description in Heb. 12:1...*so great a cloud of witnesses*. (review Week 1's lesson)
- The Holy Spirit “came upon” individuals to empower them for specific tasks. Once the task was completed, the Spirit appeared to depart from that person (Saul; Samson; many of the Judges).
- In the OT we read of the Holy Spirit restraining sin (Gen. 6). Prior to the flood (judgment), the Holy Spirit restrained man's sinfulness. *My Spirit will not always strive with man* (Gen. 6:3). This means there is a point of no return in man's rejection of God. God will not woo man forever; there is a point where He will say “no more.”
- The Spirit played a prominent role in the long span of Old Testament prophecy. David declared that “the Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue” (2 Samuel 23:2). Likewise, Ezekiel reported that “the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me” (Ezekiel 2:2).
- The Spirit inspired holiness in Old Testament believers (Psalm 143:10).
- The Spirit was crucial in helping God's people anticipate the ministry of the Messiah. For example, Isaiah 11:1–5 (cross reference).

The Holy Spirit since Pentecost

- The Holy Spirit REGENERATES and permanently indwells believers and seals them which declares to us that the Holy Spirit's presence in the believer is irreversible! TO BE CONTINUED.

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Did Jesus rise from the dead and immediately ascend to heaven? NO! During forty days Jesus showed the world that He lived again! The Sanhedrin had called Jesus a blasphemer. But during His 40 days in Jerusalem and surrounding areas, having been seen by multitudes, Jesus' resurrection was NOT disputed in Scripture. Praise God!!!!

Acts 1:1-4 - Luke the Physician, author of Luke and Acts, told Theophilus, thought to have been a Roman citizen who was a follower of Jesus... *of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,* ² until the day in which He was taken up, (Lk. 24:49-53; Acts 1:9-11) *after He (Jesus) through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,* ³ to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs (“infallible” means indubitable evidence!?? ...which TRANSLATES to unquestionable, undoubtable

evidence!), the Acts 1 passage goes on to tell us that Jesus was *seen by them* (the apostles) during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

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Why did Jesus remain on earth for 40 days? Why are 40 days highlighted? You most likely have read that 40 generally symbolizes a period of testing, a time of trial. It rained for forty days and forty nights when God flooded the earth. During Moses' life, he lived forty years in Egypt and forty years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery. The children of Israel then wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Jesus was tested in the Judean wilderness by the devil for forty days and forty nights. Returning to Moses...

...God used Moses to DELIVER the children of Israel from bondage to slavery in Egypt at the first Passover. When the people arrived at Mt. Sinai in the wilderness, Moses climbed that mountain and spent 40 days and nights on Sinai with God on two separate occasions (Ex. 24:18; Ex. 34:1-28) to receive God's commandments – God's law.

Fast forward to Jesus following His resurrection on the Sunday following PASSOVER....

During these 40 days with the disciples following Jesus' resurrection – during the PASSOVER week – it's no surprise that we read of THE DELIVERER, Jesus, giving His commandments to the disciples during 40 days! And, about what did Jesus speak? "Of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God"! What "things"? It doesn't say. And, WHY the Kingdom of God? Because not all has been fulfilled re: Jesus!! Might that have been why Jesus was teaching things pertaining to the Kingdom of God which will be established/RESTORED in the FUTURE, at Jesus Second Coming?

As Jesus taught the apostles about the Kingdom...they asked of Him...Acts 1:6 - Will it be at this time that You will restore the Kingdom? The Kingdom was VERY MUCH expected. The Prophets prophesied about it. The Kingdom is part of God's plan. The Kingdom is what Jesus offered to the Jewish people during His first coming!!!!!! Will it be at this time that You will restore the Kingdom? What does that question tell us? The Kingdom hasn't yet been restored!

The overriding theme in the Prophets warning Israel: God's judgment/chastisement followed by His restoration which will be the Kingdom of God on earth promised to Israel (II Sam. 7:12-16). What's with the "restore" word? The Jewish people had been looking for Solomon's Kingdom, the golden days of Israel, to be restored with the Son of David, the Messiah ruling on earth from King David's throne in Jerusalem. Lk. 1:31-33- And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.

The Jewish people had been longing for this Kingdom. This led to many within Israel looking for the Messiah Who would manifest Himself as a Warrior King Who would throw off the rulership and oppression of the Gentile empires. BUT Jesus came first to this earth to do what? To offer Himself as the ultimate sacrifice for our sin.

Who will...in the future...restore the Kingdom? **JESUS!** “Will it be at this time that **YOU** will restore the Kingdom?” – the disciples asked of Jesus! Jesus replied, “*It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.* (God has a plan and the kingdom is not now).

And why hasn't the Kingdom been restored as yet? The nation of Israel, as a whole, hadn't believed in Him as the Messiah. Jesus told the people of Israel, Matt. 23:39 - *for I say to you,*

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you shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' **JESUS PROMISED TO RETURN!** Jesus did NOT tell the apostles that the Kingdom was NOT going to be restored. He wanted them to focus on what would occur after He ascended into heaven.

During those 40 days, the resurrected, glorified Lord Jesus gave instructions/commandments to the disciples.... Acts 1:2 - ...*He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen.* Through Whom did Jesus give to the apostles the commandments? Through the Holy Spirit! Did that hit you? In my study I majorly PAUSED upon reading that verse. Did I have an issue...a challenge with Jesus instructing through the Holy Spirit? Am I understanding the Holy Spirit through Scripture or by what I think, from what I've heard?

We need to remember – I need to remember - that the Holy Spirit is GOD! Let's look at Our triune God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit...

Isaiah 48:16 – *Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me.*”

Let's look at the Holy Spirit and Jesus...GOD the Holy Spirit and GOD the Son within the context of Jesus' earthly ministry. Are we comprehending the Holy Spirit's worthiness?

There is MUCH in Scripture about the Holy Spirit! We are told in Isa. 11:2 that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding. The Holy Spirit INSPIRED the 40 authors of Scripture to write the 66 books of Scripture! (II Pet. 1:19- 21 - *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*)

Are we asking the Holy Spirit to give us His understanding as we read the word of God – in our quiet time – in our studies – recognizing His authority and willingly and lovingly submitting to His authority?

As individuals we need to always realize that the Bible was not written to satisfy your curiosity/my curiosity. It was written to transform/to change your life/my life!

How is the POWER of the Holy Spirit transforming our lives moment by moment?

Some have said, "I've got Jesus. Why do I need the Spirit?" !!!???

I had read in an article that the Holy Spirit of God was upon the Messiah! This article was entitled, “Why Jesus Needed the Holy Spirit”!!! But how can we attribute “need” to God?

As I was writing this part of the lesson, the Holy Spirit led me to...

John 5:19 – Immanuel, God in the flesh, Jesus, having made Himself of no reputation, told the Jewish religious leadership, *Most assuredly (of a certainty) I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He (the Father) does, the Son also does in like manner.* NOTE: we must realize that Jesus was stating to the religious leadership that the only One Who could do what the Father does must be as great as the Father.

The Pastor stated in the article, “Why Jesus NEEDED the Holy Spirit,” that “Christ’s inseparable companion during his earthly ministry as a true man (fully God, fully man) was the

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Holy Spirit. Therefore, at all the major events in the life of Christ, the Holy Spirit took a prominent role.”

“Inseparable” – YES!!! God is one – a composite unity (Deut. 6:4– *Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one; “echad”* – a composite one). A “companion” is “one who does *things* with you – who unites with you”.

“Inseparable” points to the truth that there was, always has been and always will be a RELATIONSHIP among/within God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – our Triune God – the Trinity – from eternity past through to eternity future! That’s how God so loved the world (John 3:16)! There has always been and always will be love among/within the Trinity – from eternity past! Since love is known among the 3 persons of the Trinity... God created the world BECAUSE He loved and desired a relationship with man!

Scripture speaks of the critical part played by the person and work of the Spirit in the person and work of Jesus which focuses on the EXTENT of the Holy Spirit’s work as we look at the 3 Persons of the Trinity.

Isa. 42:1 – God the Father is speaking, *Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One (Chosen One) in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him;* God the Father placed God the Holy Spirit upon God the Son!

Isa. 61:1 – the Messiah is speaking, *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.*

Isa. 11:1-2 - *There shall come forth a Rod (shoot) from the stem (stock) of Jesse (the father of King David; this shoot is to be a descendant of King David), and a Branch (Messianic title-the Messiah!) shall grow out of his roots. (“Branch” – a wonderful picture of new growth-new life!) ² The Spirit (the Holy Spirit) of the LORD shall rest upon Him (Jesus), the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.*

This is God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. The members of the Trinity have eternally existed as uniquely one – *echad* - a composite one. One in love, one in fellowship, one in holiness, justice, righteousness.....

Let's look at the Holy Spirit's role in Jesus' ministry...
...at Jesus' incarnation...

Luke 1:35 – the angel Gabriel told Mary who was chosen to give birth to Immanuel, God in the flesh, *The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*'

Matt. 1:18, 20 - *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.*

Matt. 3:16 - At Jesus's baptism the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. The Holy Spirit then led Jesus to the Judean wilderness to meet with Satan.

Luke 4:1:4, 14 - *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted (tested) for forty days by the devil... Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.*

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Jesus, their Teacher, their Messiah, their friend was departing...but He will return and establish God's Kingdom on earth...as He had promised! AND, Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit!!!!
Are we beginning to grasp the SIGNIFICANCE of the Holy Spirit?

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit...He was led by the Holy Spirit...the power of the Holy Spirit was in Him.

Do we need the Holy Spirit? What did Jesus tell the disciples?

John 16:7 - *I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage (expedient; profitable – for their best) 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.*

How were the disciples processing Jesus statement? How could it be better to trade Immanuel – God in the flesh – their friend with Whom they talked, listened to, ate with, and laughed with – for God the SPIRIT?

Jesus was instilling EXPECTATION for the Holy Spirit!

Are we waiting upon the Holy Spirit expectantly day-by- day/moment-by-moment?

QUESTIONS

Any V8 moments regarding the Trinity, re: the Holy Spirit?

How will this “new insight” impact your walk with the Lord?

How are you waiting upon the Holy Spirit in your walk with Him?

Pray for one another.

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Read through Week 2 including the Bible references.

Write down observations from the Bible passages.

Write down your questions.

Share these truths with at least one person.
Read through Week 3's handout when you receive it.