

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER  
Week 3– Why Jesus Needed to Depart Before Sending the Holy Spirit  
September 26, 2023

John 16:5-7 - *But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?'<sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.*

The disciples did NOT ask, “Jesus where are You going? What will happen to You when You leave?” They were concerned with “What will happen to US when You leave?” Jesus excused their lack of interest in His “destiny,” knowing their great sorrow. *Nevertheless* is one of the great words of the Bible, meaning *despite all of that*. Jesus knew they were filled with sorrow because of what He told them. But, *despite all of that* He wanted them to know that His going away was **to** their advantage. Jesus’ departure was an essential step in their growth as disciples which resulted in a broader and more effective ministry in the entire world. Are we hearing God speak...”NEVERTHELESS” when sorrows enter our lives?

John 16:20-22 – Jesus told the disciples, *you will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will be turned into joy* (JOY is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. May our lives be occupied with JOY [Eccl. 5:19-20]). <sup>21</sup> *A woman, when she is in labor, has sorrow because her hour has come; but as soon as she has given birth to the child, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world. <sup>22</sup> Therefore you now have sorrow; ... but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you.*

The crucifixion and all that went with it was not a bump in the road on the way to fulfilling God’s plan. It was THE way God’s plan would be fulfilled...and that sorrow would turn into joy. God’s work was not to *replace* their sorrow with joy, but to *turn* sorrow into joy, as He often does in our lives. Can we thank God for sorrow? That’s difficult! “BUT GOD”! God is ABLE to place thankfulness in our hearts through the POWER of the Holy Spirit Who is our COMFORTER! AND GOD can use us to come alongside others who are heavy hearted? Ask Him to work in your heart to impact others...a truly sacrificial work!

II Cor. 1:3-6 (TURN TO)

Why did Jesus promise to send the Holy Spirit after He departed?

John 16:12-14 – Jesus continued, *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come He will guide you into all truth* (the specific truth about the Person of Jesus); *for He will not speak on His own authority* (the Holy Spirit will NOT speak of Himself), *but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.* The Holy Spirit’s ministry since Pentecost is to reveal JESUS! The ministry of the Holy Spirit must testify and declare Jesus – NOT anything new and beyond Him!!! Nothing apart from Scripture.

NOTE: In our understanding of the Trinity, consider John 16:15 – Jesus told the disciples, *All things that the Father has are Mine*. If Jesus is not God...if Jesus is not equal to the Father, this proclamation would be blasphemous!!!

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Jesus spoke of the timing of sending the Holy Spirit...John 7:37-39 – Jesus spoke about the Holy Spirit being given to *those believing in Him...the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified*.

When would the Holy Spirit be sent? After Jesus was glorified. Since Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit descended and permanently indwelt believers, the Holy Spirit's ministry NOW, in addition to His ministry of regeneration, inspiration, illumination, convicting/convincing, and restraining is to EXALT JESUS - which is based upon the resurrection, and ascension of Jesus! Prior to Jesus being glorified, the Holy Spirit could not have come in full "Jesus Messiah exalting **POWER**." In EXALTING JESUS...we're talking VICTORY!

What is the POWER of the Holy Spirit of God doing in our lives today – every day – every moment regarding exalting our Jesus?!!?? Is the Holy Spirit leading us to praise God for His eternal VICTORY?

To exalt God, to glorify God is to excitedly/exuberantly praise Who He is...His attributes...to praise His works, to trust His name and obey His Word. Read Psa. 19:7-10 and I Chron. 16:8-36

Jesus told the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem...but to wait for the Promise of the Father – of His sending the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus– and they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from the time Jesus was sharing final instructions. And you will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit "has come upon you" - GK "to fall into you" (Acts 1:4-8).

Jesus wanted the disciples to FOCUS on waiting on God's promise and receiving POWER from the Holy Spirit!! Why did the disciples need POWER and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? ...for what was to come!

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Since Pentecost it is the work whereby the Spirit of God places the believer into union with Christ and into union with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. It is not a second work that impacts some (I Cor. 12:13). The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at salvation.

"Do not depart from Jerusalem." But, the disciples needed to be in Jerusalem for the upcoming Feast of Weeks – the next Jewish feast 50 days after Passover (Lev. 23:15-21). The Feast of Weeks was one of the three feasts that God told ALL Jewish men throughout the known world to appear in Jerusalem each year with an offering to HIM. They were to travel to Jerusalem from wherever they lived (even if it was in Asia Minor [modern day Turkey] and BEYOND!!! The

three feasts: the Feast of Unleavened Bread/Passover, the Feast of Weeks (50 days following the Feast of First Fruits in the Passover season), and the Feast of Tabernacles.

Deut. 16:16 - *Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses (II Chron. 6:6 - *I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there*): at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed. We know the Feast of Weeks as PENTECOST!!!*

Acts 1:9-11 speaks of Jesus' departure...His ascension!

Luke 24:50 - *And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them.*

Acts 1:9-11 - *Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.<sup>10</sup> And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He*

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*went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,<sup>11</sup> who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'*

Luke 24:52 - *And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy,*

Acts 1:12 – continues w/ ...*they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey (Rabbinic law stated that a faithful Jewish person could travel half a mile on the Sabbath).<sup>13</sup> And when they had entered, they went up into the upper room where they were staying: Peter, James, John, and Andrew; Philip and Thomas; Bartholomew and Matthew; James the son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot; and Judas the son of James.<sup>14</sup> These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.*

Jesus' ascension! When was the last time you heard a sermon on Jesus' ascension into heaven? I've heard it said, "The ascension of Jesus may be the most important doctrine...you never think about"!???

### **The Ascension of Jesus...**

- The ascension PROCLAIMED that God the Father validated Jesus' finished work, God the Father approved God the Son's work!
- ...marked the end of Jesus' earthly ministry. The period of human limitation was at an end.
- The ascension SCREAMS that Jesus' humiliation is past! Entering this world in the flesh, Jesus made Himself of no reputation and took on the "form of a bondservant" (Phil. 2:7), without ceasing to be eternal God! Jesus' humiliation encompassed His birth, life, death, burial, until His resurrection.
- John 17:4-5 - *I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I*

*had with You before the world was.* All that Jesus had come to do, He had accomplished. Jesus returned to the glory He knew from eternity past.

- Jesus' ascension marked the beginning of His new work as High Priest.
- It allowed Him to prepare a place for us (John 14:2).
- The ascension set the pattern for His return. When Jesus comes to establish the Millennial Kingdom, the 1,000 year Kingdom of God, He will return just as He had left... bodily, and visibly in the clouds (Acts 1:11; Dan. 7:13-14; Matt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7).

Have we ever considered that Jesus returned to glory – to heaven – differently – than when He came to earth? He came to this earth at His incarnation as fully God and fully human. Fully human to identify with us. Fully human to die for us. Fully God to shed His pure blood (NOT tainted) and precious blood to redeem us from bondage to sin. Fully God – eternally!

In His ascension into heaven, Jesus was restored to His limitless, His FULL use of power.

Jesus was restored with scars and wounds that will remain forever

John 20:24-28 (TURN TO)

Returning to Jesus' High Priestly ministry, Psa. 110 makes clear that the ascension highlights Jesus' High Priestly ministry.

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Psa. 110:1, 4 – King David, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote, *The LORD said to my Lord, 'Sit at My right hand, **Til** I make Your enemies Your footstool.' The LORD has sworn and will not relent, 'You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.'*

David's "Lord" is the promised Messiah – the Son of David. YHWH, Jehovah told the Messiah to take His place – at God's right hand. Why did David call the Messiah "Lord"? He recognized that the Messiah was greater than David himself.

Heb. 7:26-27 - *For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; <sup>27</sup> who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself.*

Heb. 8:1- *Now this is the main point of the things we are saying: We have such a High Priest, who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens*

Jesus' High Priestly ministry continues to this day in heaven, where Christ "appears in the presence of God on our behalf." ...**UNTIL** YHWH/Jehovah makes the Messiah's enemies His

footstool. In ancient times, making enemies a ruler's footstool came about through treading upon the necks of their conquered enemies.

Psa. 110 teaches that Jesus will be seated at the right hand of God UNTIL Jesus' enemies will be conquered which will occur at Armageddon. Jesus will physically return to the Mount of Olives, judge the Gentile nations (Matt. 25) and establish His kingdom on earth from which He will reign for 1,000 years, seated on King David's throne (Luke 1:32-33).

Heb. 9:24 - *For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us....* It continues to this day in heaven, where Christ "appears in the presence of God on our behalf."

Heb. 7:23-24 (READ) And every priest *stands* daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

Matt. 19:28 - So Jesus said to His apostles, *Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration (lit. "Genesis again" – during the Millennial Kingdom), when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

The first two chapters of Genesis and the last two chapters of Revelation are the bookends of the Bible which teach us that there is one story of Scripture. Sin entered into the world in Genesis 3. God's plan, which is always Plan A, teaches us how He will bring back to this earth the conditions of Genesis 1 & 2.

Acts 1:8 - *...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

Until the disciples received power from the Holy Spirit, the Great Commission could not advance. It was only at Jesus' ascension that the disciples could be the powerful witnesses of Jesus in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria. It was only when Jesus was exalted at the right hand of God that Jesus could pour out the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:33 – At Pentecost, Peter stood and preached to the masses – *Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

### QUESTIONS

Why did Jesus need to ascend into heaven before the Holy Spirit could be sent?

What was new to you?

How did this week's study impact you?

What are your observations?

What are your questions?

Why and how will you exalt Jesus?

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Read through Week 3 including the Bible references.

In your quiet time with the LORD, using Psa. 19:7-10 and I Chron. 16:8-36, worship God. How did God meet you during that time of exalting Him?

Write down your observations from the text.

Write down your questions.

How were you impacted? Pray about sharing what God is teaching you with others.

When you receive Week 4, please read through it.