

JESUS, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST; THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR COMFORTER
Week 8 –TRANSFORMATION!
October 31, 2023

On Pentecost the Church, the body of Christ, was birthed – on the Jewish Feast of Weeks. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit. He descended and indwelt believers. Both Jews and Gentiles who placed their trust in Jesus the Messiah alone for their salvation, were baptized into the body of Christ, for all eternity.

I Cor. 12:13 - *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.*

Rom. 12:5 - *we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.* (I Cor. 12:27; Eph. 4:12; Eph. 5:23 - *Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body;* Col. 1:24). After His bodily ascension, we know from Scripture that Jesus continues to minister to us and He uses us to demonstrate the love of God to the world! In this way, the Church functions as “the Body of Christ.” As the body of Jesus we are united! The Spirit of God places the believer into union with Jesus and with other believers in the body of Christ at the moment of salvation. We are to exercise our spiritual gifts to keep the body functioning properly as stated in Eph. 4:11-13. Eph. 4:5 – *One Lord, one faith, one baptism.*

Jesus told Nicodemus, *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.* Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again, born from above, born of the Spirit. Consider: because the Holy Spirit regenerates, renews, transforms a person at salvation, the Holy Spirit continues to move like the wind that blows. He continues to work within us. Many times He works out God’s perfect will in our lives in unexpected and spontaneous ways! Have you recognized the Holy Spirit moving in your life in that way?

The Holy Spirit’s significance:

The Spirit’s permanence within us

- During the last Passover Seder, Jesus told His friends, the disciples, He would be departing. They were struggling with feelings of abandonment. Jesus told them, *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you!* (John 14:1, 18)
 - *I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter, that He may abide (remain) with you forever. The Spirit of truth, ...you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you* (John 14:16-17).

The Spirit’s power within us

- Acts 1:8 - *... you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; Power - dunamis from which comes the English word, “dynamite.” Explosive!*
- Luke 24:49 – *Remain in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high. Power from God! This power is the unparalleled enablement of the Holy Spirit.*
 - This very same dynamic, explosive power resides in every believer today! Are we aware of it? Is it God’s desire that we live with His power propelling us?

The Spirit’s power results in perseverance

- The disciples have been described, pre-Pentecost, as a handful of unlikely misfits. Following the descent and indwelling of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost – these same men turned the world upside down! They had been TRANSFORMED!

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Transformed!

As we focus on the disciples, we see that...

...their human frailties were transformed, having received supernatural gifts and abilities:

- These untrained, one-language Galileans were supernaturally able to communicate in the native dialects of individuals from regions far removed from Israel. The Gk word for “language” in Acts 2:6 is *dee-al'-ek-tos* which means “A tongue or language peculiar to any people group” which encompasses dialects!!
- Peter and John went up to the temple during the hour of prayer and encountered a man lame from birth. Acts 3:1-8 - *In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.* 'And, he did! Acts 3:11-12 - Peter proclaimed, *Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?* 'Peter and John, having been transformed by the Holy Spirit, did not turn the scene into a man-glorifying sideshow!

...their fearfulness was transformed into bold confidence:

- *Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus* (Acts 4:13).

...their fears and intimidation were transformed into a sense of invincibility:

- Invincible means being too powerful to be defeated or overcome! Since being invaded by the Holy Spirit...
 - ...instead of running from the public, they ran toward them!
 - ...instead of hoping not to be seen, they exhorted total strangers to repent!
 - ...instead of being frightened by insults, warnings, and threats, they stood face-to-face and adamantly stated, *We must obey God rather than men* (Acts 5:29).
 - The Holy Spirit alone is able to bring about this transformation!

...their feelings of abandonment were transformed into rejoicing perseverance!

- After being flogged by the officials who ordered the apostles to speak no more in the name of Jesus, the apostles were released. *So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.* ⁴² *And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ* (Acts 5:41-42). The flogging, the warning and the threat fueled the fire of their determination which caused much rejoicing!

It was the life-changing, attitude-altering, dynamic power of the Holy Spirit Who became permanently resident within them! The same Spirit Who filled believers in the first century can fill us today! Is God the Holy Spirit being allowed to transform our lives?

Rom. 12:1-2 - *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

Are we seeing the twofold command? ...*do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed....*

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Are we being conformed to this world or are we being transformed?

Are you and I allowing the Holy Spirit to transform our lives...from the inside out?

Transformation must take place on the inside before being evident on the outside.

There are only two answers: yes or no.

If our answer is “no,” there are two possible reasons. Either the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, is not within us...or...He is dwelling within us but we prefer to live life on our own!

“It’s up to us to respond to what we read. You have a choice: to adjust how you live daily, or to stay the same.” Francis Chan, “Crazy Love.”

Do we desire a more intimate and dynamic relationship with the One Who delights in our calling Him “Abba, Father.” The key to such intimacy is the Holy Spirit. Perhaps we are just learning about the significance of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Perhaps we didn’t know that we could worship Him and walk with Him. And so, will we invite Him to...take control of our lives?

The Holy Spirit so desires to show us the Father’s will and manifest in us, as we’re walking in the Spirit (Gal. 5:16), His fruits – in spite of our circumstances...*love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control* (Gal. 5:22-23).

The One Who has been sent to us by Jesus longs to empower us, change our attitudes, comfort us in our struggles and sorrows, direct us in living out God’s plan for our lives, strengthen us when we are weak, while He, the Holy Spirit, focuses us on JESUS!

REMEMBER, Jesus told the disciples at their last Passover together... John 16:12-15 - *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority (He will not speak about Himself), but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.*

How do we understand walking in the Spirit and “my sin”?

- Romans 1-3 – Paul addressed sin. Man is wicked, depraved, separated from God, humanly hopeless.
- Romans 4-5 – Jesus’ death at Golgotha/Calvary paid the price for our sin and is the basis upon which God declares those who trust in Jesus’ alone for salvation as righteous.

- Romans 6 – Sin no longer has power over the believer. We have been emancipated. Believers are free from our old master. We are told not to let sin reign over us (Rom. 6:12-13).
- Romans 7 – Sin, however, remains present within us as believers! Paul speaks of his struggle. Rom. 7:14-15 - *For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do.*
- Romans 8 – We read of the Spirit providing a new dimension of living. Rom. 8:1-5 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those*

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who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Next week: when the Spirit takes control....

QUESTIONS

How many of you are interested in answering and discussing these questions? WHY? If not – why not?

What was new to you in this lesson? **WHY?**

What impacted you in this lesson? **WHY?**

How do you understand walking according to the flesh?

How do you understand walking according to the Spirit?

Are you wrestling with this lesson? If so, in what way?

Have you experienced the power of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Have you experienced boldness when walking according to the Spirit?

Have you experienced victory over fear through the Holy Spirit?

Have you rejoiced amid circumstances in your life?

What is your take-away from this lesson?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 8 with the Bible references.

Spend time with the Lord re: this lesson...and respond to Him.

Read Week 9's lesson when you receive it.