

Holy Spirit—Inward Function, To Receive Life and Power

2018/1/5 SJCA Bible Study

I. Scripture: Acts 1:4-8, 13-14; 3:1-12; 4:8-14

II. When Jesus was arrested and judged in the court, many disciples fled, even though they had followed Jesus before and had seen the many signs and miracles. They were willing to carry out the great commission to the ends of the earth, but they had no power to fulfill Jesus' commands.

Jesus knew the disciples' condition, and He told them to wait for the Spirit promised by the Father to come; they would receive power to be Jesus' witnesses of His resurrection.

When the Holy Spirit comes down to dwell in men's hearts, that is the resurrected Jesus coming into hearts of men. The disciples had an assurance, knowing that Jesus truly lived in them, and was with them. Jesus' power of resurrected life was in them, and they no longer would be in fear. Instead, they would be a powerful witness for the Lord. "Jesus" to them is no longer a noun, "resurrection" to them is no longer a theory, but a life.

III. Thoughts and Sharing:

1. Let's think about the time between the ascension of Jesus and the descension of the Holy spirit. The disciples knew that Jesus was resurrected, what reasons caused them who had followed Jesus all along unable to be Jesus' witnesses? Among these reasons, which ones are also our problems?
2. After the Holy Spirit descended, Peter and John saw a circumstance which had existed for a long time: a lame person at the gate of the temple begging for alms. How did Peter and John respond differently than before? When the lame person was healed, he walked into the temple, walking and leaping, and praising God. Those who saw Peter and John must have been very astonished by the courage, and the power of life. From the Scripture we read, how did Peter and John explain such a change? How is that to you? Do you also want to have such power, and lead such a life? Let's pray in one accord.

Scripture:

Acts 1:4-8, 13-14

⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with^[a] water, but in a few days you will be baptized with^[b] the Holy Spirit."

⁶ Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷ He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Acts 3:1-12

¹ One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. ² Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. ³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." ⁷ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. ⁸ He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. ⁹ When all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰ they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

¹¹ While the man held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade. ¹² When Peter saw this, he said to them: "Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?"

Acts 4:8-14

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! ⁹ If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, ¹⁰ then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. ¹¹ Jesus is

"the stone you builders rejected,
which has become the cornerstone."^[a]

¹² Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

¹³ When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.