



 THOUGH JESUS MAY BE WITH US IN "SPIRIT" (MATTHEW 28:20),
IT IS GOOD THAT HE IS NOT PHYSICALLY HERE!

It's GOOD FOR OUR FUTURE!
There are many rooms in my Father's home, and I am going to prepare a place for you.

John 14:2a (NLT)

It's GOOD FOR US NOW!

But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor\* will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

John 16:7 (NIV)

\* The Counselor = the Holy Spirit.
This word can also be translated as Comforter, Encourager,
Advocate — one called alongside to help.

### IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ERA: THE SPIRIT WAS PRESENT

✓ He was everywhere...

Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139:7 (NIV)

ANSWER: NOWHERE! (Verses 8-12)

√ He was among his people...

My Spirit remains among you, just as I promised ... Haggai 2:5a (NLT)

✓ He gave them his Word. (= the Bible) ... men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Pe 1:21b (ESV)

✓ He empowered people. (at many times, for many purposes)

## IN THE <u>New</u> TESTAMENT ERA: JESUS EXPANDED THE SPIRIT'S REALM OF ACTIVITY!

- BEFORE: In the <u>OLD</u> Testament era, the Spirit's work centered mainly around Israel.
- AFTER: Today, the Spirit is working WORLDWIDE, through the church (also called "the <u>body</u> of Christ").

Now, the Spirit is accomplishing "earth-shattering" things throughout the world!

### **TODAY, THE SPIRIT'S WORK IS WORLDWIDE!**

"... when the Holy Spirit comes on you; ... you will be my witnesses ... to the ends of the earth."

Acts 1:8 (NIV)

And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ...

John 16:8 (ESV)

- NOW: People around the world are being saved. They are convicted of their sin, they repent and turn to God! (Also, the sins of the unsaved are often restrained.)
- IN THE FUTURE: ALL people (even the <u>unsaved</u>) will acknowledge their sinfulness, the nature of righteousness, and the judgment of God.

# THIS NEW WORK OF THE SPIRIT WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF AN OLD TESTAMENT PROMISE!

✓ The prophet Joel told us it would happen! He said...

... God says, I will pour my Spirit on everyone.\*

Acts 2:17b (GW)

\*(This "everyone" refers to those who serve God!)

In those days I will pour my Spirit on my servants, on both men and women.

They will speak what God has revealed.

Acts 2:18 (GW)

[This prophecy may have even further fulfillment at the time Jesus returns.]

## THE BOOK OF ACTS SHOWS US HOW THIS PROMISE WAS ACCOMPLISHED!

1

### FIRST: Jesus reminded them about the promise.

... he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father\* sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. ... in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4b, 5b (NLT)

✓ The Spirit's coming would bring *power!* 

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses ...

Acts 1:8a (ESV)

In John 16:7, Jesus said that <u>he</u> would send the Spirit. Here, he says that the <u>Father</u> will send the Spirit. (<u>Both</u> are involved in the sending.)

THEN: The promise was fulfilled ... first to the Apostles ...
then to the Jews ... ultimately to people everywhere!

✓ First to the apostles

Suddenly, a sound like a violently blowing wind came from the sky and filled the whole house where they were staying.

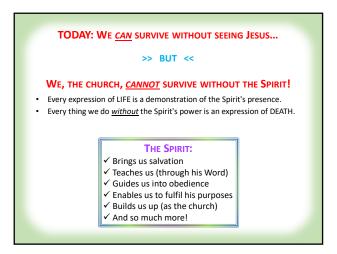
All the believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

Acts 2:2, 4 (GW)

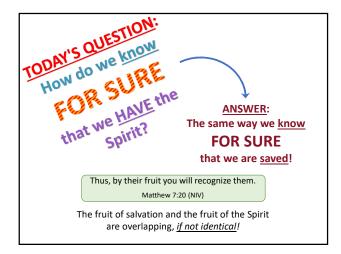
✓ Then to everyone (to all who are willing to turn to the true God)

"This promise belongs to you and to your children [= Jews] and to everyone who is far away [= non-Jews]. It belongs to everyone who worships the Lord our God."

Acts 2:39 (GW)







MANY PEOPLE ARE OFFENDED BY THE IDEA OF BEING
"RECOGNIZED" BY THEIR "FRUIT."

FAKES ESPECIALLY DON'T LIKE THE IDEA...
because it means their fakeness can be recognized.

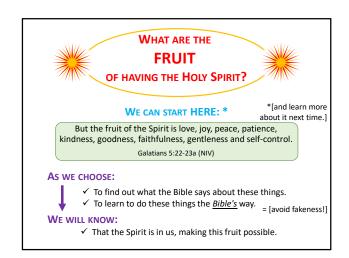
YET JESUS TELLS HIS FOLLOWERS TO RECOGNIZE THE FAKES —
especially if the fakes are in leadership roles!

Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or
make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree
is recognized by its fruit.

The good man brings good things out of the good
stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil
things out of the evil stored up in him.

Matthew 12:33, 35 (NIV)





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