

GOOD NEWS
for the unsaved
WORLD!

(#38)
The Holy Spirit – a gift from Jesus!
A gift we can't live without!

THERE CAN BE MANY REASONS WE MIGHT WISH THAT JESUS WERE PHYSICALLY PRESENT WITH US RIGHT NOW.

IF ONLY I COULD SEE JESUS – RIGHT NOW – THE WAY THE APOSTLES DID BACK THEN...

I COULD BELIEVE IN HIM BETTER

I COULD FOLLOW HIM BETTER

I COULD LOVE HIM BETTER

I COULD SERVE HIM BETTER

BUT ACTUALLY...

JESUS BEING ABSENT FROM US RIGHT NOW IS THE BEST OF ALL OPTIONS!

FIRST...

⇒ IF we had to rely on Jesus' physical presence...

- ✓ Most of us would never have a chance to see him!
- ✓ Even if we were able to travel to wherever he was (probably Israel), the crowd would probably be too great for us to get near him!

✱ JESUS HAS SOMETHING FAR BETTER FOR US! ✱

SECOND ...

⇒ We tend to forget about what Jesus now looks like ...

- ✓ We tend to think of him as a typical human, with long hair, a beard and wearing a robe.
- ✓ In reality, as the resurrected and ascended Jesus, his appearance would be too terrifying for us! (Even his closest friend was terrified – see Revelation 1.)

✱ JESUS HAS SOMETHING FAR BETTER FOR US! ✱

NOT THIS!

FINALLY ...

✱ JESUS HAS SOMETHING FAR BETTER FOR US! ✱

And that "something" is ...

the HOLY SPIRIT!

⇒ Working in us NOW:
Able to empower ALL of us, ALL of the time.

⇒ Preparing us for LATER:
Making us ready for the day that we can meet Jesus in person ... and not be terrified!

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 NEW TESTAMENT ERA: JESUS EXPANDED THE SPIRIT'S REALM OF ACTIVITY!

- **BEFORE:** In the OLD Testament era, the Spirit's work centered mainly around Israel.
- **AFTER:** Today, the Spirit is working WORLDWIDE, through the church (also called "the body 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 unsaved) 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 he would send the Spirit. Here, he says that the Father will send the Spirit. (Both are involved in the sending.)

2 **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)

TODAY: WE CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT SEEING JESUS...

>> BUT <<

WE, THE CHURCH, CANNOT SURVIVE WITHOUT THE SPIRIT!

- Every expression of LIFE is a demonstration of the Spirit's presence.
- Every thing we do without the Spirit's power is an expression of DEATH.

THE SPIRIT:

- ✓ Brings us salvation
- ✓ Teaches us (through his Word)
- ✓ Guides us into obedience
- ✓ Enables us to fulfil his purposes
- ✓ Builds us up (as the church)
- ✓ And so much more!

Last time's question:

How do we RECEIVE the Spirit?

ANSWER:
The same way we receive salvation!

- ✓ We must be willing to "hear" (accept as true) the Good News.
- ✓ We must repent and be baptized.
- ✓ We must be worshippers of the true God.
- ✓ We must be willing to obey God.

TODAY'S QUESTION:

How do we know FOR SURE that we HAVE the Spirit?

ANSWER:
The same way we know FOR SURE that we are saved!

Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.
Matthew 7:20 (NIV)

The fruit of salvation and the fruit of the Spirit are overlapping, if not identical!

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)

CAN PEOPLE BE RECOGNIZED BY THEIR "FRUIT"? YES!

According to Jesus and the apostles, even nature teaches us about it.

A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. A tree is identified by the kind of fruit it produces. Figs never grow on thornbushes or grapes on bramble bushes.

Luke 6:43-44 (NLT)

Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

James 3:11-12 (NIV)

[See also Matthew 7:16-19; Luke 6:45 ; etc.]

* THIS IS TOO SERIOUS A MATTER TO IGNORE!!! *

WHAT ARE THE FRUIT OF HAVING THE HOLY SPIRIT?

WE CAN START HERE: * *[and learn more about it next time.]

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Galatians 5:22-23a (NIV)

AS WE CHOOSE:

↓

- ✓ To find out what the Bible says about these things.
- ✓ To learn to do these things the Bible's way. = [avoid fakeness!]

WE WILL KNOW:

- ✓ That the Spirit is in us, making this fruit possible.

Credits

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" - Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group; All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "ESV" - Scripture quotation from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. (www.gnpcb.org)

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Megaphone - roshellin / CC0: <https://openclipart.org/detail/167891/megafono>
- Painting of Jesus - Carl Bloch / Public domain, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jesus_Sermon_On_The_Mount_\(cropped\).jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jesus_Sermon_On_The_Mount_(cropped).jpg)
- Presentation - Dennis Hinks © 2020.