The Holy Spirit # 5

Hello everyone. Welcome to "Notes From the Presence." Today is the fifth in a series of short blog articles on the Holy Spirit. In our last post, we talked about Jesus and how He lived with a constant internal and external representation of the Holy Spirit. Today we are going to talk about the Holy Spirit in relation to the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Just before going to the cross, Jesus made a few crucial statements about the Holy Spirit.

John 15:26 *When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me.*

John 16:7 *But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

In order to grasp what these statements mean, we have to understand the spiritual condition of the disciples at the time Jesus was talking to them. Before the cross, Jesus (the second Adam) was the only person to have the Holy Spirit both "in" and "upon" Him. The disciples, however, were not in this Spirit-filled condition. At this point in time they were not born again. They had no internal indwelling of the Spirit, and although the Spirit might have rested on them for certain times, deeds, and miracles, He certainly did not "remain" upon them. They still represented the state of Old Testament humankind, from the time that Adam sinned until the resurrection of Jesus.

It is interesting that Jesus said it was to their "advantage" if He would go away because upon His departure, the Holy Spirit would be given. This statement used to baffle me. Think about this scenario for a moment: if Jesus was standing in front of you right now, not just in spirit but in the real live flesh, wouldn't that be the ultimate way to live? You could talk to Him, do life with Him, bring your prayer requests directly to Him, be discipled by the "Man" Himself, and He would be right there if you ever needed help.

However, Jesus stated that it would be even better if He were to go, because the Father could then send the Holy Spirit. If this statement is true (and I have no reason to believe that Jesus was lying here) then we have totally underestimated the power and interaction of the Holy Spirit in our lives. So what was Jesus after here? I believe the answer lies in the definition of the word *redemption*: to restore or buy back all that was lost. In the context of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was intent on one thing, restoring humankind back to the original garden condition of once again living with the Holy Spirit permanently both "in" and also "upon" us.

It was in this setting that Jesus went to the cross. He gave His life to restore us back to the place from whence we fell. He gave His life to "redeem" us. On the cross, Jesus took on our old, unholy sin-nature and made a way for us to be holy and righteous through His blood and sacrifice. He released us from the condition of sin that had bound us since the first bite of forbidden fruit. These actions paved the way, upon our acceptance of Jesus' sacrifice, for the Holy Spirit to live inside us once again, co-habiting with our human spirit just like in the beginning. Then, mere hours after His resurrection, Jesus had a strange and wonderful encounter with His disciples. It is recorded in the book of John:

John 20:19-22 *So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you." And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

Notice the first thing Jesus did here. He allowed the disciples to see Him, believe that He had been raised from the dead, and recognize Him as Lord. This is significant in that the first thing we need to do in order to be born again is to confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord and believe He is resurrected from the dead (Romans 10:9).

Then, immediately after this exchange, Jesus did something absolutely mind-boggling. He "breathed" on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." So what just happened? Friends, it is my belief that this is the moment when the Holy Spirit came and took up residence in the disciples. It is when they became born-again, born of water and also now of the "Spirit." It is one of the most significant moments in human history. We now have a group of regular, every day people with the Holy Spirit living permanently "in" them once again, the spiritual DNA of heaven intertwined with their own human spirits. Remember, this had not been the case for nearly 4000 years. In order to

understand this moment, I would like to point us back to a passage in Genesis that we talked about in week one of this series.

Genesis 2:7 *Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*

Notice the familiar action of God "breathing" the breath of life and spirit/Holy Spirit into Adam. Now the second "Adam" was "breathing" and releasing this same life giving Holy Spirit into our human creation once again, bringing dead spirits back to life with an infusion of Spirit life. What a stunning picture - and the best of news is this: now anyone who confesses Jesus as Lord and believes that He is raised from the dead can have this same Holy Spirit living permanently inside of them forever! Jesus is indeed our hero, the restorer of all things. Whooot!!!

In our next article, we are going to talk about the second half of the restoration process. Now that the Holy Spirit was living "in" humankind once again, we will discuss how He also came to rest "upon" us. I am getting excited just thinking about it!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and He came to restore all things.