

## Come And See Part 8

The Ascension & The Promise of The Holy Spirit

*Luke 24:48-53, John 14:15-31*

*Memory Verses: John 16:7*

### MANUSCRIPT

#### Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

We are still in our series titled Come & See and over the course of the last two months we've asked you to journey with us through the Gospels as we've looked at, in detail, the Easter story. And so, it makes perfect sense for you to question why we are still in this series given the fact that we've already covered the death and resurrection of Christ. The answer is simple, the Easter story doesn't end with Jesus' resurrection. In fact and in all truth, the Easter story never ends as it continues in us until the day of his return.

But for the sake of this series, and the sake of what is traditionally known as the Easter story, I believe we do scripture, and ourselves an injustice if we do not at least cover the ascension and his promise to send the Holy Spirit. Read with me in **Luke 24:48-53** and **Mark 16:19-20**. **Luke 24:49** makes it clear that one of the purposes of his ascension was to send the promise of the father, the power from on high.

Look also with me at **John 14:15-25**. Here Jesus continually encourage his disciples with the aspect that though he is leaving them, he will not be gone for long for he is coming in the form of the Holy Spirit to not live with them but to live in them.

Perhaps you need that encouragement too? Perhaps the fact that you cannot be with Christ in the flesh is a source of frustration. Perhaps you, like many others, have thought of how much easier it would be to have a strong faith if you could only see him with your eyes and touch him with your hands. How quickly we forget the words we read last week from **John 20:29**; "blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe." And we are blessed. We are blessed that we have the opportunity of faith in believing and not seeing. We cannot see, therefore our faith is all the more real. But we are also blessed in that we have a helper and comforter to give us even greater faith when our faith runs dry.

This message is for those who long to see him, to see him with eyes of faith through the power of the promised Holy Spirit. **The Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes.**

#### Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we need to see this morning is this; **Jesus Had To Ascend Because He Knew We Would Not Listen To The Spirit If He**

**Remained In The Flesh**. Just like Jesus' death and his resurrection, the ascension was part of God's plan from the beginning of time. Jesus knew that he could not live with us on this Earth for all time because our faith would have very little room to grow.

For examples, there is a large portion of the population that believes in ghosts or aliens. Though they may have had a supernatural personal experience that fuels their faith in the unknown, they still have to have a measure of faith. But, if ghosts and aliens were everywhere and visible to everyone, then of course everyone would believe in them in the same way we believe in cats and dogs. If they are present then it doesn't take faith to believe in them.

Look with me at **John 16:4-6**. There are a few things here that jump out at us. First, Jesus wants us to remember him and his words. There's no need to remember him or his words if he stays with us. Secondly, Jesus wants us to have a faith that he lives beyond this world. He is out of our sight, but we are not out of his. And Third, if Jesus had stayed much longer beyond his resurrection, the faith that he wanted his followers to have in him would have been diluted if not impossible. Jesus ascended to strengthen our faith.

But Jesus also ascended, not only for our faith's sake, but also for the Holy Spirit's sake. Look at **John 16:7**. Jesus knew that having his presence inside our soul's would be more beneficial for us than to have his physical presence among us. **John 14:17-20** reminds us that he doesn't leave us as orphans, and that though the world can't receive him, know him, or see him, we will see him as he dwells in us. Through the Holy Spirit, we will know that we are in Christ and that he is in us. **John 14:28-29** reminds us that he is going away so that he can come again in another form, and he is also going away to be with the father where he will intercede for us. I think we forget that not only does Jesus live in us through the Holy Spirit, he also is at the right hand of God the father in Heaven advocating for us against the devil himself. So... **our faith isn't just that Jesus has saved us through his death and resurrection but that he lives in us and is interceding on our behalf**. The point is clear here, **the Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes**.

The second thing we need to see this morning is this; **Jesus Sends Us The Holy Spirit To Help Us Know His Words and Do His Will**. There are two things that we as believers need to be constantly reminded of, the words of God and the will of God. What does he say to us, and what does he want us to say and do. Look at **John 14:26**. He is our primary spiritual helper. This lets us know that we can't help ourselves, we need supernatural help. And as our helper, he will teach us and remind us of what we've already been taught. He will open our eyes to understand the Word when we read it. If

you say you can't understand the Word, pray for the Holy Spirit's help. And, he opens our minds to remember the Word. You say that it's hard to memorize the Word. Pray for the Holy Spirit to help you remember it as you study it.

Look also at **John 15:26-27**. Again he is called the helper. Helping us is his first job. But he is also called the Spirit of truth. He helps us to recognize real truth and live accordingly. He helps us to recognize the greatest truth, Christ himself. The spirit bears witness about Christ in the Word and he also bears witness to Christ supernaturally in our hearts. We know that we are saved by Christ because we can feel the Holy Spirit in our hearts. He teaches us the truth of Christ and thus helps us be witnesses of Christ. He consistently teaches us and reminds us of the truth of our mission.

Look at **John 16:12-15**. Again he is called the Spirit of truth because he will guide us into all truth. Part of that truth is the glory of Christ. The Holy Spirit shows us and reminds us of the glory of Christ and causes us to glorify him more. The bottom line is this, **If we allow the Holy Spirit to help us, our faith will be increased as our eyes are opened to the truth of God's Words. The Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes.**

The third thing we need to see this morning is this; **Jesus Sends Us The Holy Spirit To Give Us Peace From The Ruler Of This World.** Have I told you the story of when me and my brother became best friends? I was in 12<sup>th</sup> grade and Jesse was in 11<sup>th</sup> grade but somehow he ended up in the same class as me. One day I decided to throw balls of paper at some of my friends behind the teachers back. Unfortunately I missed my target and hit a girl who's boyfriend was the biggest and baddest dude in the whole school and happened to be sitting right behind her. I'm pretty sure this guy had killed someone and spent some time in jail. I instantly started to panic. The dude stood up, looking like Goliath, and said, "who threw that?" I knew I was dead. That's when my brother, who was not afraid of anyone, stood up, and said, "i threw it." Goliath sat down and that was that. My younger brother punked the one student the cops were even afraid of. For the rest of the year I felt protected. You mess with me you mess with my little brother. I was at peace.

I'm assuming this is the way the disciples felt when they were with Jesus, but as soon as Jesus was arrested that peace went away and they all fled into hiding. When he arose I'm sure that feeling of peace even increased. Jesus has punked death, as long as we are with him we are safe. But now that he is about to ascend that peace seems to be fleeting.

Jesus is telling them that I'm sending you someone that if you

accept him he will give you that same peace. Look at **John 14:27, 30-31**. What do we have to fear? This world? The ruler of this world, Satan? We shouldn't. We should be able to recognize through the Holy Spirit that our God is alive and well and still has all authority over this world and the devil. There is nothing that should give us fear or anxiety, and yet we wrestle with that constantly.

How can we have peace through the Holy Spirit? First, recognize that the ruler of this world has no claim on our Lord! Secondly, recognize that Jesus loves you and has your back. Though you can't see it, he stands up to all the bullies and backs them down. It is still true, greater is he who is in you than he who is in the world. Please recognize, **our peace is dependent on the strength of God, and our God is still undefeated. The Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes.**

The last thing we need to see this morning is this; **Jesus Sends Us The Holy Spirit To Convict of Sin.** Look with me at **John 16:8-11**. A few things to understand here. First, how exactly will the Holy Spirit Convict of Sin? Two ways. The first way the Holy Spirit convicts of sin is in us. For believers he basically becomes our conscience. He will lean on us to repent and live in righteousness. We will feel his pull towards good and from evil. Our purity is one of the Holy Spirit's top priority. And, this is real power; the power to help us to deny our sinful impulses and keep our bodies in submission to Christ. We need this!

The second way the Holy Spirit convicts of sin is in the world. He does this in two distinct ways. He will convict the world of sin through us as we preach the Word of God. Secondly, he will supernaturally move, as he always has, in society. He must draw people to himself. The only way the eyes of the lost can be opened to their sin is through the power of the Holy Spirit moving in the world.

The Holy Spirit will convict us and the world of our what sin is, what righteousness is, and what or who will be judged. In other words, the Holy Spirit, the helper, the spirit of truth, will supernaturally let us know what is wrong, what is right, and what will happen if we can't get it right! Simple right? But there are some things I want to remind us of. Mainly, we, as believers don't judge the world. We share the truth with the world, then the holy spirit convicts them of sin and shows them how to be holy in Christ, and then God judges them at the end. We are messengers, we are not the Holy Spirit. But when it comes to the church it is different. We are called to judge ourselves and the church in regards to sin and righteousness. We have a responsibility to keep ourselves and our brothers and sisters in Christ accountable. Still, in the end, only God knows who is his and who isn't.

Regardless, this is all a big job isn't it? Personally I don't think I want the responsibility of convicting people of their sin or judging them, but if that

is what God wants us to do... maybe he will give us some help? Thank God for the power of the Holy Spirit. **The mission of God to share the Gospel with the world takes a greater power than we have in ourselves.** **The Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes.**

### Application

We are called to yield to the Spirit. We are told that we can quench the Holy Spirit. Therefore it makes sense that in order to tap into the power of the Holy Spirit in us we must give him the authority to empower us.

Think about it; we have this amazing gift in the Holy Spirit that if we so choose, we can put on the shelf and neglect it. Why would we ever do that? Why do so many so called “christians” lack faith in their Lord? Why do so many so called “christians” have no real power to know the word and do the word? Why do so many so called “christians” have no real power to find peace of mind and therefore live in fear and anxiety? Why do so many so called “christians” have no real power to live sinless lives? Why do so many so called “christians” have no real power to share the Gospel, convicting the world of their lostness?

### Conclusion

We all need real power. If we are Christians then we have real power; the power of the Holy Spirit! And, how do we tap into the power of the Holy Spirit? We must pray for the power of the Holy Spirit! We must give opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work by spending time in the Word. We must yield to the drawing of the Holy Spirit. And we must not quench the spirit by ignoring him! The Holy Spirit helps us to have a greater faith in our ascended Christ by empowering us with truth, peace, and the mission of the Gospel. **The Ascension gives us a greater opportunity to see through the Spirit what we could never see with our eyes.**