

LIFE GROUP LESSON

When God Moves • Week of June 11

Introduction

There are no shortcuts to the Christian life. Upon Jesus' resurrection, the Risen Lord spend forty days with His apostles. Then, at the time of His ascension, Jesus' direct command to His apostles was to *wait*: "And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from Heaven" (Luke 24: 49). The disciples had their work cut out for them. They had been commissioned by Christ to be His witnesses, ambassadors (agents) of His mission of love and redemption to the world (Matthew 28:16-20). The message is "There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent" – Good News for all nations (Luke 24: 44-48). Yet, apart from the power of God's Spirit, the disciples would not be successful.

Same with us. We need the Holy Spirit to carry out the tasks assigned to us. Once we receive the Lord Jesus into our heart, the work begins. The life of faith is not trouble-free or pain-free. Actually, it is quite the opposite. Trials and challenges come alongside the assignments God has before us. But hardship is not wasted, when God moves. The Holy Spirit was promised to the disciples prior to the Lord's suffering and death (see John 15:26-27). Through the power of His Spirit, the Lord actually used their difficulties, setbacks and challenges to conform the disciples more into His image. Again, same with us. Suffering is part of the journey. Just as Christ learned obedience through suffering, God's Word states in Hebrews 5:8, so we as His children, must first share in His suffering if we are to share in His glory (Romans 8:17).

Background

In Acts 1, Luke writes: "In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything that Jesus began to do and teach until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit... Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 1:1, 4-5). The disciples want to know if the time has come to 'free Israel and restore our kingdom' (Acts 1:6). They still don't get it. Like the disciples, we often get concerned about dates and times that are not for us to know. What should we be about? Telling people about Jesus!... The same mission Jesus gave his disciples –

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Read Acts 1:9-14, 2:1-21, 37-41

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?

The Holy Spirit is who supplies the power. Just as the Holy Spirit pursued Peter long before he left his fishing net to follow Jesus, the Holy Spirit has pursued you from the beginning. Think over your life's journey. When did you first sense God's presence pursuing you, calling your name? How has God's preventing grace *kept you* even before you knew to ask him to keep you from evil, harm, deadly paths?

2. The Holy Spirit indwells everyone who calls on the name of the Lord. Have you received the Holy Spirit personally?

In preparation for the Messiah, John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not even worthy to be his slave and untie the straps of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Luke 3:16). How will you cooperate with the Holy Spirit's *fire* to purify your heart? Are you living in fear right now? Perhaps there is a mountain before you that appears imposing, or maybe a sickness, illness, or disease that either threatens your life or someone you love. Declare aloud even now that in Jesus' name, you will surrender to God's Spirit to use this challenge to conform you more into the image of Christ Jesus.

3. Peter quotes the prophet Joel when he preaches: "In the last days, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants – men and women alike – and they will prophecy" (Acts 2:17-18).

How (in what ways) is the Holy Spirit pouring upon you? Are you living into Christ's call for *you* to go and make disciples? How can you partner through prayer and service to be about the Good News of Christ in the world around you? Pray and ask the Lord to fill you (your family, your Life Group) with power from heaven for the mission of Christ in the community where you live, your workplace, your home. Don't worry so much about how the details will unfold,

just say, "Lord, I am available. I love you and trust you to fill me with your Spirit, so I can be about the work you have for me."

The Plain Truth states: When God moves, insignificance is *not* an option. Your participation in Christ's commission is most significant! Pray—

"Lord today I authentically admit that I am a part of Adam's fallen race. I too have sinned and fallen short of what God has intended for me. I need Jesus, the second Adam to redeem me. Lord, today I want to empty myself of anything that is not of you – selfishness, pride, anger, bitterness, jealousy, envy, greed and lust. Today I repent and ask for forgiveness of my sin and offenses against you, Lord God. Now fill me with your Holy Spirit. Fill me with your love. I receive the Holy Spirit, the healing of God, the infilling of your love and the power to live now as a Citizen of Heaven. In Jesus' powerful, life giving name! Amen."

when GOD *moves*

Text: Acts 1:1-8, Acts 2:1-21, 37-41

PLAIN TRUTH

**When God moves, _____ is
not an _____.**

**1. The Holy Spirit _____ us -
_____ Grace.**

**2. The Holy Spirit dwells _____ us—
_____ Grace.**

**3. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon _____
_____ - _____ Grace.**

One Year Bible Reading

June 11: 1 Kings 8:1-66, Acts 7:51-8:13, Psalm 129:1-8, Proverbs 17:1
June 12: 1 Kings 9:1-10:29, Acts 8:14-40, Psalm 130:1-8, Proverbs 17:2-3
June 13: 1 Kings 11:1-12:19, Acts 9:1-25, Psalm 131:1-3, Proverbs 17:4-5
June 14: 1 Kings 12:20-13:34, Acts 9:26-43, Psalm 132:1-18, Proverbs 17:6
June 15: 1 Kings 14:1-15:24, Acts 10:1-23, Psalm 133:1-3, Proverbs 17:7-8
June 16: 1 Kings 15:25-17:24, Acts 10:24-48, Psalm 134:1-3, Proverbs 17:9-11
June 17: 1 Kings 18:1-46, Acts 11:1-30, Psalm 135:1-21, Proverbs 17:12-13

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