

## International Conversation Cafe

New Testament: A Sad Goodbye, But a New Beginning, Acts 1

Saying "Goodbye," to someone you love is hard. You might not know when you will see them again. What if they change and your relationship is not as close as it once was? What if you relied on that person for advice and now they are not there to listen and guide you?

Jesus prepared his disciples for his death and departure. He knew how sad and disappointed they would be when he was no longer with them. But in their sadness, he offered hope. He was sending to them another person to take his place. This person was the Holy Spirit. "Holy," means pure, which is the opposite of evil. "Spirit," means wind, which refers to the fact that the Spirit is **invisible** to our eyes, as is the wind. However, just as we see results of wind, we see the effects of the Holy Spirit.

Here is what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit before he died.

### ***John 14:15-18 (New International Reader's Version)***

<sup>16</sup> I will ask the Father. And he will give you another Friend (Counselor/Helper) to help you and to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> The Friend is the Spirit of truth. The world can't accept him. That is because the world does not see him or know him. But you know him. He lives with you, and he will be in you.

<sup>26</sup> But the Father will send the Friend in my name to help you. The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.

*Retell Jesus' words to the disciples in your own words.  
What questions does his message bring to mind?  
What can we learn about Jesus from this passage?*

Forty days after Jesus died and rose from the dead, he was lifted up to heaven.

<sup>50</sup> Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted up his hands and blessed them. <sup>51</sup> While he was blessing them, he left them. He was taken up into heaven. <sup>52</sup> Then they worshiped him. With great joy, they returned to Jerusalem. <sup>53</sup> Every day they went to the temple, praising God. Luke 24



Copley, John Singleton. 1775. Oil on canvas.  
Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



## The Holy Spirit Comes, Acts 2

The disciples were in a room in Jerusalem when the Holy Spirit came to them. It happened in an unusual way. First there was a noise like a great wind. Then, something that looked like fire rested on the top of each person. Finally, they could speak in foreign languages so that visitors in Jerusalem, from many parts of the world, could understand them. The disciples spoke to them of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins offered through faith in Jesus. The noise, fire, and speaking in other languages was the signal that the Holy Spirit had come just as Jesus had promised.

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Acts 1- Jesus had said to the disciples,

**8** But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other."

*Retell how the disciples experienced the Holy Spirit when he came to them.*

*What does this story tell us about the relationship between the disciples and the Holy Spirit?*

### **So who is the Holy Spirit?**

In the Bible, we learn that there is one God, "The Lord our God is One." We also read that God is spirit; not skin, hair, bones, or blood. God is one spirit essence.

But we also read that there are three persons named as God; the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Each of these persons is equal and each has all power, love, knowledge, and holiness. They always live in perfect harmony and love.

*Have you ever seen a perfect relationship?*

*What does the perfect relationship of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit teach us about God?*

*What would you like to remember from this discussion?*

*What questions would you like to find answers to?*