

International Conversation Cafe

Community Group: The Holy Spirit Comes

The Coming of the Holy Spirit is Predicted

Saying “Good bye,” 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?

Can you tell about a time like this?

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, 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. He is a person.

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

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

¹⁶ I will ask the Father. And he will give you another Friend (Counselor/Helper) to help you and to be with you forever. ¹⁷ 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.

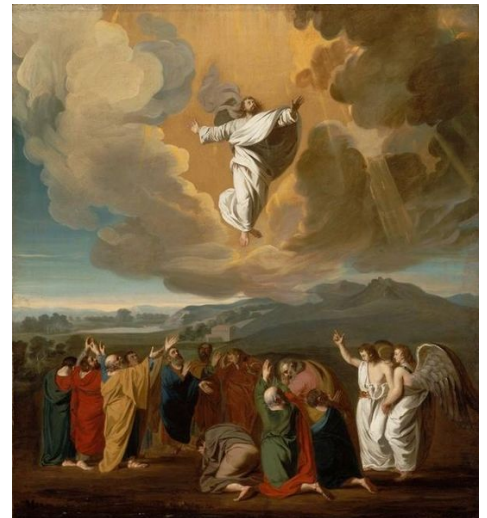
The Friend is the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things. He will remind you of everything I have said to you.

1. *Tell the story so far.*
2. *What questions does this bring up for you?*
3. *What is the advantage of having the Holy Spirit instead of the physical presence of Jesus?*

Forty days after Jesus rose from the dead, he was lifted up to heaven. Luke 24

⁵⁰ Jesus led his disciples out to the area near Bethany. Then he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹ While he was blessing them, he left them. He was taken up into heaven.

⁵² Then they worshiped him. With great joy, they returned to Jerusalem. ⁵³ Every day they went to the temple, praising God.



Copley, John Singleton. 1775. Painting. Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

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Acts 1

Jesus had said to the disciples, "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."

What would the Holy Spirit help the disciples do?

Acts 2

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Restate what happened in the upper room.

5 Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Who heard the disciples speaking and what was so amazing? What was the conclusion of some?

14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:
"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

What was Peter's explanation of the behavior of the disciples?

Let's Summarize What This Passage Teaches About the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

What did he empower people to do?

How does this story relate to us?