

EMPOWERED BY HIS SPIRIT

Pleasure to be back and on a day where we celebrate a key follower ..disciple some even say Apostle of Jesus , Mary Magdalene who walked the whole journey with Jesus, life death burial and resurrection

[Luke 24 v 44-49& Acts 1 v 6-11]

These scriptures are set in the most emotionally tipsy turvy time in the disciples, including Mary's lives. They had been through all the emotions in the world in a very short space of time .. From the high of the triumphant march through Jerusalem, the glories of Palm Sunday, to the low of Gethsemane when their star suddenly was all vulnerable and stressed. Then the shock of the betrayal in the garden, then the further betrayal by Peter..the Rock and the scattering of the entire group....then the unthinkable agony despair and darkness of the cross ...and Judas' suicide and the threat of now being identified with this fiasco..

Then back up to the high and excitement of one then another and then all of them seeing the resurrected Jesus....led by Mary the first witness of resurrected Christ.

Can you picture how they were feeling? Those who were vengeful were getting ready to tell the haters you see...our man is back! The revolutionaries amongst them were like yep now He just needs to ride through the city, scars and all and have a showdown with the Romans ..with a star who can't die..terminator style.."I am back"

Others are like ..erm....not sure what's going on here..this version of Jesus is weird...Walking through walls like a ghost but eating food like one of us..

So now to add to all the emotional drama Jesus is leaving them..

In the midst of this drama He prescribes the solution and the way forward...wait to receive power from on high!

We too live in emotionally topsy turvy times..in a world where you can be hit by a hundred different emotions a day...and the answer today to overcoming as it was the is be filled with the Spirit...

Now like us today it was probably not easy for them to attach much weight to what He was prescribing as the solution for the situation they found themselves in ..

This was not the first time He has spoken about the Holy Spirit..when He had first shown up He had said peace and receive the Holy Spirit and nothing major happened...

But you see it is not the type of medicine you take by itself that is the cure....it's the dosage!!!

I was ill with pneumonia once and was prescribed antibiotics but it didn't cure me then Mum took to another doctor who looked at what I had and what I was taking and said this one would kill you..so mild the body just acclimatises itself to it and gets resistant you need a whole larger dose!

Jesus here was prescribing and promising a much higher dose of the Holy Spirit...one that would revolutionise them and their world...

The level of their impact, our impact is dictated by our exposure to the Holy Spirit and He was like wait ...to be effective in this season you need much more..

Let me tell you what the function of this Holy Spirit He was prescribing is:

- He is the One tasked with bringing/ enforcing the kingdom of God here. The kingdom of God is defined in the Bible as Righteousness peace and joy (**Romans 14 v 17**)...in the Holy Spirit.

Jesus actually did not come and die simply to introduce another religion called Christianity...He came to introduce a new world order to pull heaven down from up there to down here...to produce a people who would experience and impose heaven down here now..

The Holy Spirit is tasked with injecting righteousness peace and joy into a world where sin distress and misery are the norm.

When we pray our father who art in heaven ..your kingdom come...on earth..the person responsible to deliver that heaven on earth you are asking for is the Holy Spirit!

- He is the one tasked with removing the necessity to rely on substances for excitement or joy ..

Do not be drunk with wine..but be filled with the Spirit (**Ephesians 5 v 18**)

If you are still needing the bottle or to puff something to cheer you up you either have not yet met Him ..or you need to check the dosage you received!

- He is the one tasked with transforming weak minded incapable people into bold effective people...

Look at the impact He had on the disciples..from the fear that made Peter deny Jesus to the boldness that made him declare Jesus Lord in Acts, after that dose of the Holy Ghost, in front of thousands

Acts 4 v 29 - when the disciples were threatened they cried out for boldness and the Holy Spirit came and shook the room.

- He is the One called the Helper... tasked with dealing with loneliness...
John 14 v 18 ..will not leave you as orphans

- He is the Teacher...to teach us all things (**John 14 v 26**)

Would take hours to exhaust the function of the Holy Spirit...

This Holy Spirit is not a new concept or fad introduced by the Pentecostals neither is He a discardable part of God..

He was there at the foundation of the earth when the world was dark and formless..He hovered over it and sprung to action when the word was spoken..

He was the one who came upon Samson and gave Him incredible strength to overcome great odds like casually rip apart a lion...(Judges 14 v 6)

He met with Saul when Saul was looking for his father's donkeys and transformed him into another man (1 Samuel 10 v 6) say the Spirit would come upon him and he would prophesy and be turned into another man and v9 so it was that God gave him another heart when the Spirit came upon him...

When Mary mother of Jesus was scratching her head about how she was meant to do her mission impossible without human assistance the Angel prescribed Him...**Luke 1 v 34** - the Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the highest will overshadow you!

So Jesus in departing says guys this is my recommendation - don't try and do this thing called life without Him..wait until you are full, overpowered, empowered by Him...

They were not told how long the wait nor given a description of exactly how they would know this thing they are waiting for had arrived. For about 10 days they waited not knowing how what they were waiting for would look like....

They didn't need a description of how He looks when He arrives coz when you have received power you will know...not just you but those around you will also know!

The Holy Spirit needs introduction or explanation..He speaks for Himself. You don't need to tell someone they just got hit by a 240 volt...their own body testifies!

What was the evidence they had that they had been empowered ?

- There were physical signs...sounds noise
- The ones being empowered spoke with other tongues
- The people around recognised something had happened to these guys
- The ones on whom He had fallen were transformed from fearful and defeated to bold and effective.