

## **Who was Jesus? – Answers from the Gospel of John**

*Jesus – and the Holy Spirit (John 14:15-17, 25-26, 15:26-27, 16:7-15)*

**8-23-09**

**We've talked a lot about the first two Persons of the Trinity (God the Father and God the Son) and their relationship in this series.**

- God's one and only Son (sacrificing your one and only son is a huge deal)
- One with the Father (can't believe in God apart from Christ)
- The Blessed Son (ultimate father son relationship)
- I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener (Jesus never acts independently of His Father)

**Today we want to focus on the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit,** whom John has more to say about than any of the other Gospel writers, especially in chapters 14-16. 14-16 are in the midst of Jesus "farewell discourse" (explain). One of the main ways Jesus seeks to comfort His and encourage His disciples in their great time of need is by teaching them about the Holy Spirit. His teaching ought to be a comfort and encouragement to us as well.

The way I want to focus on the third Person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit, is by answering the question, **"Why was it a good thing for Jesus disciples that He went away and sent the Holy Spirit?"**

An amazing statement that is still true today

### **John 16:5-7 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup> "Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?'"

<sup>6</sup> Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief.

<sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

**Three reasons why Jesus' going and the Holy Spirit's coming was a good thing both then and now**

1) It marked the dawn of the new covenant age. The age prophesied by the prophets for hundreds of years and longed for by the people of Israel.

a. **Ezekiel 36:24-28 (NIV) - Prophesied**

<sup>24</sup> "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.

<sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

<sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart *and put a new spirit in you*; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.

<sup>27</sup> *And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.*

<sup>28</sup> You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

b. **Acts 2:1-34 (NIV) - Fulfilled**

<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

<sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

<sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

<sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...

<sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"

<sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

<sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning!

<sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "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.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy...

<sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.

<sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.

c. **John 7:37-39 (NIV) – Prerequisites**

<sup>37</sup> On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

<sup>39</sup> By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since *Jesus had not yet been glorified*.

d. **John 14:15-17 (NIV)**

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--

<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

e. **John 16:7 (NIV)**

<sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. *Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.*

f. One step closer to Heaven!!!

- i. Old Covenant – God dwelt in the tabernacle and temple and the people had to go to Him (limited access).

- ii. New Covenant – God dwells in His people by the Holy Spirit (unlimited spiritual access)
  - 1. **1 Corinthians 6:19 (NIV)**  
<sup>19</sup>Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?
  - 2. **2 Corinthians 6:16 (NIV)**  
<sup>16</sup>...*For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."*

- iii. Age to Come – God physically dwells with His people for eternity (unlimited physical access)
  - 1. **Revelation 21:1-3 (NIV)**  
<sup>1</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.  
<sup>2</sup>I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.  
<sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God."

2) It helped Jesus' disciples to know Him more. You would think that it would have had the opposite effect. How can this be?

- a. Though Jesus left His disciples physically for a time, He came to them spiritually FOREVER.

- i. **John 14:15-23 (NIV)** – dual ref to res and HS

<sup>15</sup> "If you love me, you will obey what I command.

<sup>16</sup> *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with*

*you forever--*

<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for *he lives with you* and will be in you.

<sup>18</sup> *I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

<sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but *you will see me.*

Because I live, you also will live.

<sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and *I am in you.*

<sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and *show myself to him.*"

<sup>22</sup> Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

<sup>23</sup> Jesus replied, "*If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.*

- ii. One implication of this is that they now had constant, 24-hour access to Jesus unlike when He physically dwelt with them.
- b. Jesus sent the Spirit to help clarify His life and teaching for His disciples because they just didn't get it.
- i. **John 14:25-26 (NIV)**
    - <sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you.
    - <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
  - ii. **John 15:26 (NIV)**
    - <sup>26</sup> "When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.
  - iii. **John 16:13-15 (NIV)**
    - <sup>13</sup> But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

<sup>14</sup> He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.

<sup>15</sup> All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

iv. We don't get it either!

### **1 Corinthians 2:12-14 (NIV)**

<sup>12</sup> We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God, *that we may understand what God has freely given us.*

<sup>13</sup> This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words. (which we know from earlier verses is the Gospel – the good news about Jesus)

<sup>14</sup> *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

3) It enabled and empowered Jesus' disciples to accomplish the mission that He called them to.

a. **Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)** – Matthew's Great Commission based on Jesus' authority

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

<sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

b. **John 20:21-22 (NIV)** - John's Great Commission bases on the receiving of the HS

<sup>21</sup> Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

<sup>22</sup> And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. (must have been a foretaste of Pentecost)

c. **Acts 1:1-8 (NIV)**

<sup>1</sup> In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach

<sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

<sup>3</sup> After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.

<sup>5</sup> For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

<sup>6</sup> So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

d. **Acts 2** – The wait is over!

- i. The Spirit is poured out, Peter preaches the Gospel, and 3,000 people repent, believe, and are baptized

e. **Four ways the HS enables and empowers Jesus disciples to accomplish His mission**

- i. Frees them live lives that are consistent with their message (practice what they preach)

1. **Galatians 5:16-26 (NIV)**

<sup>16</sup> So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature.

<sup>17</sup> For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to

the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.

<sup>18</sup> But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

<sup>19</sup> The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery;

<sup>20</sup> idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions

<sup>21</sup> and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

<sup>24</sup> Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

ii. Anoints them with spiritual gifts that help to confirm their message

1. **Acts 14:3 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup> So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.

2. **1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (NIV)**

<sup>24</sup> But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all,

<sup>25</sup> and the secrets of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

iii. Emboldens them share the Gospel

1. **Acts 4:29-31 (NIV)**

<sup>29</sup>Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness.

<sup>30</sup>Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus."

<sup>31</sup>After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

iv. Causes the seeds of the Gospel that they plant to grow

1. **1 Corinthians 3:5-7 (NIV)**

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

<sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

<sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.

2. Growth (new life) comes by the Spirit

a. **John 3:3-6 (NIV)**

<sup>3</sup>In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

<sup>4</sup>"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

<sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

3. The ultimate marks of growth, faith and repentance, come by the Spirit as well

a. **John 6:63-65 (NIV) - Faith**

<sup>63</sup> The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life.

<sup>64</sup> *Yet there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him.*

<sup>65</sup> He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

b. **Acts 2:37-38 (NIV) - Repentance**

<sup>37</sup> When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

<sup>38</sup> Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...

c. **John 16:8 (NIV)**

<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict *the world* of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:

## Conclusion

It is a good thing that Jesus left us (speaking to believers) and sent the HS because...

- 1) It allowed us to be a part of the new covenant age, or the age of the Spirit, in which God dwells within us.

- 2) The HS helps us to know Jesus more by giving us 24 hour a day access to Jesus for eternity and helping to clarify and illumine for us the meaning and significance of His life and teachings.
- 3) The HS enables and empowers us to accomplish Jesus mission to go and share the good news about him with others by: freeing us to practice what we preach, anointing us with spiritual gifts that help to confirm our message, emboldening us to share, and causing the seeds of the gospel that we plant to grow by bringing about faith and repentance.

Let's pray.