

Pln12 - The Spirit of God - Acts 1:8

We are WELL INTO God's Plan of Redemption in the N.T.

After looking at Jesus the Messiah 2 msg's ago

Last week we jumped into the Deep End
with a very personal Look at The Great Commission

In the very last Vs's in Mathew (18-20) - Jesus says

- 1) All authority in heaven & on earth has been given to ME
- 2) SO GO - MAKE DISCIPLES of all Nations
Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit
Teaching them all I've commanded you
- 3) & I will be WITH YOU always

& I Believe the Disciples were READY to GO - Right Then

But the LAST Orders from OUR LORD DON'T END there

We have to go to Acts Ch 1 - to see the Final-Final Command
before Jesus Returned to Heaven

TURN to Acts 1:4-5 (ESV)

4 And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me;

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Jesus says - GO - Make Disciples of all Nations . . .
BUT DON'T GO, YET - WAIT

Have you ever had **God** do that? - **GO** - **WAIT**

If God CALLS you to **GO** - & then **tells** you to **WAIT**
WHY is it - **Usually ???** - - - **CAUSE YOU'RE NOT READY !!**

God doesn't call you **BECAUSE** you are **READY**
He calls you because He is going to **GET YOU READY**

& **THAT** is **exactly** how **it is** with the **Entire Church**
& **the Great Commission**

Jesus says to His church
My Plan is for YOU - to GO Make Disciples of all Nations

& **the Church** says - ***"Uh . . . We don't think we're Ready"***

& **Jesus says** - **No Kidding!** - - **Of course** you're **NOT Ready**

In fact - You are **SO NOT Ready** - I want you **to just go**
into an **Upper Room** - & **PRAY** - **Until** you **Receive MY POWER**

Because Only **MY OWN LIFE** - & **MY OWN POWER**
will **ENABLE** you to **TAKE PART** in My **PLAN of REDEMPTION**

THAT is SO COOL !!

Let's Pray

Allow me to read the end of the Book of LUKE - *from the NLT*
You can flip there - or stay - (we'll be right back to Acts)

At the end of Luke (*espec in the NLT*) - There is such a
Great ORDER OF EVENTS - to get us to where we're at today

Luke 24:46–49 (NLT)

46 *And he (Jesus) said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. (that’s the O.T.)*

47 *It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations (Great Commission), beginning in Jerusalem: (& here’s the msg) ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’*

48 *You are witnesses of all these things. (that’s the book of Acts)*

49 *“And now (like - in order to make this possible) 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.”*

Jesus tells His FOLLOWERS (You & Me) - You have been
COMMISSIONED to Take the Good News to all People

But Please, Please, - DO NOT DO IT
UNTIL you have been FILLED with the Power of the Holy Spirit

WHY would Jesus say- HEY - DO NOT lift a Finger for me
UNTIL you have been Filled with the Power of the Holy Spirit ??

Because WITHOUT the Holy Spirit - You CANNOT BE a Faithful
Representative of Jesus Christ - *You cannot be His WITNESS*

You CAN have Man-Made Religion

You CAN Even be a High-Ranking Pharisee . . .

You can **BULLY** People - **PUSH People** around -
BEAT them up with the Bible - & **DEMAND** they **do things**

But you **CANNOT** be A **Faithful WITNESS** for **Jesus Christ**
WITHOUT the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit FILLING** You

The Truth is - **without** the **Power** of the **Holy Spirit** in our Lives

We are **doing FAR MORE HARM** to the **Great Commission**
than we are **doing GOOD**

& so - **back** in **Acts 1:6** - **WE** might **know** this is
The Ascension of Jesus

BUT - The Disciples **DID NOT KNOW** -
THAT was **what** was **about to happen** here

They had **ORIGINALLY thought** - Jesus was going to **RESTORE**
The Kingdom to Israel - **WHILE He WAS ALIVE**

& **when Jesus** was **Crucified** - (mostly) - they all **FLIPPED OUT**
Because they **thought** their **hopes** were **LIT - Dead**

& **then** - When **Jesus ROSE** from the **Dead**
their hope skyrocketed again

ALRIGHT they thought - **NOW** is the Time - **Nothing Can stop** Jesus
from **establishing** His **Kingdom NOW**

& so we read in Acts 1:6-7 → →

& so we read in Acts 1:6-7 (ESV)

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.

Will Jesus RESTORE the Kingdom of God - YES! - But not in the WAY the Disciples THOUGHT - OR in the TIME they Thought

BUT . . . HERE (in nxt vs) is what you CAN KNOW . . .

HERE is the PLAN . . . HERE is how YOU fit into the PLAN !!!

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

HERE is the PLAN - You will Receive POWER from the Holy Spirit - & YOU will be my Witnesses - to the End of the Earth

Do you Remember when I said - I didn't see WHY God would use US - to accomplish His Plan of Redemption ?

Well - it's because He's NOT counting on OUR Strength or OUR Ability

It is Only - HIS LIFE, & HIS POWER - that is accomplishing His Plan of Redemption on the Earth

“Ohhh, I see now, I guess God's Pretty Smart after all”

Jesus is Trying to Get his Disciples to Understand - HE is going to accomplish His Plan of Redemption - THRU THEM

It's Gonna be HIS Life - It's Gonna be HIS Power . . .

Living IN US - & Working THRU US - that is going to accomplish
His Plan of Redemption for this Fallen World

& So - We MUST get to know the Holy Spirit - Because without Him
Honestly, we cannot Truly DO ANYTHING for God

W/O the Holy Spirit - We're actually "Counter-Productive" -
We STAND in the WAY - of God's Great Plan of Redemption

Unfortunately - The Nation of Israel is our Greatest PROOF

that without the Holy Spirit - Our Natural Tendency is to
Fall AWAY from God - No matter how well meaning we are

In our LAST Msg in the O.T. - When God was promising
the NEW COVENANT to His People Israel

The Holy Spirit was the CENTRAL ANSWER God had
for man's constant tendency to Fall AWAY from Him

We've read it before - Ezekiel 36:25–27 (ESV)

25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you (Salvation).

26 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

The Holy Spirit is NOT just a N.T. Revelation → →

The Holy Spirit has been **ACTIVE** in God's Plan
SINCE the Creation of the World

& - as God promises His people Restoration in a NEW COVENANT
it is the Holy Spirit who is the POWER SOURCE

God says - ***A NEW SPIRIT I will put within you***
I will put MY SPIRIT within you & CAUSE you to walk in my ways

If the H.S. is the Central POWER SOURCE of the New Covenant

Then We Have GOT to get a Good Grasp on
WHO the Holy Spirit IS - - & WHAT His ROLE IS

& so - We Must Know First - The Holy Spirit IS GOD !!

Just as the FATHER is a Distinct Person - AND is GOD
Just as JESUS is a Distinct Person - AND is GOD
The HOLY SPIRIT is a Distinct Person - AND is GOD

This is the MYSTERY of the TRINITY

There is ONLY ONE GOD - - IN THREE Distinct Persons
Father - Son - Holy Spirit

ALL Equally GOD - Yet all Distinct PERSONS in Distinct ROLES

FIRST - we need to Grasp that the Holy Spirit IS GOD

SECOND - The Holy Spirit is a PERSON - NOT a FORCE

THIRD - ***He is the Primary Member of the Godhead AT WORK***
in OUR Lives & in the WORLD

**When God MOVES US - When God SPEAKS TO US
When God WORKS in our Lives**

It is Primarily the WORK of the Person of the Holy Spirit

We have a **few DOZEN Msg's** on the **Holy Spirit** (*to Help You*)
You can **Ask Pam** at **Word-By-Mail** for them

I'd Recommend:

The **3 CD set - Under His Influence**

The Holy Spirit - in the **Strong Foundation** Series

Have You Received The Holy Spirit - Acts

We **also** have a **12 Msg Set** on the Holy Spirit

Please - If you are a **Follower** of **Jesus Christ** - You have **GOT**
to have a **Good BIBLICAL Understanding** of the **Holy Spirit**

Because we **CANNOT** truly even **LIVE** the **Christian Life** w/o Him

The **Holy Spirit** **IS** the **LIFE of GOD** - **RESIDING IN Every Believer**

1 Corinthians 3:16 (ESV)

16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

& 2 Corinthians 6:16 (ESV)

16 . . . For we are the temple of the living God

The **Holy Spirit** is **GOD** - **Dwelling IN You**

In our 7th Msg in this series - God's Presence on Earth
We Introduced the Holy Spirit as God's Presence INSIDE US

We LOOKED AT John 14 - Where Jesus told His Disciples in

John 14:18–19 (ESV)

18 "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

19 . . . Because I live, you also will live (ref to His life in us).

& just before that - the Foundation Holy Spirit Vs

John 14:16–17 (ESV)

*16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper,
(Allos Parakletos) to be with you forever,*

*17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he
dwells with you and will be in you.*

Now - Pls Lstn - This is Really Important to Understand

The Holy Spirit Could NOT be "IN" the Disciples at this Point
BECAUSE Jesus had not DIED for their SINS

The Holy Spirit can NOT DWELL "IN" - An UNREDEEMED Person

But When Jesus Took Your sins upon Himself
& Gave you HIS Righteousness (As 2Cor 5:21 says)

You Became the TEMPLE (Dwelling Place) of GOD
. . . & "By Name" - That is God The Holy Spirit

Now - It's **Important** we **understand** -

The **Holy Spirit INDWELLS EVERY TRUE BELIEVER**

Let's Read one of the **most Important** (& **Difficult**) **texts** on this

Romans 8:9–11 (ESV)

9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. (H.S. Dwelling in you) Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

(meaning - anyone who belongs to Christ HAS the Spirit)

10 But if Christ is in you (still ref to the H.S.), although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness
(The Spirit is your Life, because of the Righteousness of Christ).

11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you (H.S.), he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

OH MAN - THAT IS GOOD !!!!

Now - it **takes** some **TIME** & some **STUDY**

to **really get** your **Head** around **ALL THAT** - Cause it's **HUGE**

NOTICE:

The '**Spirit of God**' dwells in you - **V.9**

& The '**Spirit of Christ**' dwells in you - also **V.9**

& then **V.10** - The Spirit is your **LIFE, BECAUSE** of
the **Righteousness** of Christ

Then **V.11** - '**The Spirit** of Him who **Raised Jesus** from the Dead'
will also **give YOU life**

FOUR Different References to the **Holy Spirit**

ALL CLEARLY stating that **HE** is the **LIFE OF GOD IN YOU**

& **SINCE HE IS** the **Life of God** in you
It is **SO Important** you understand His **ROLE**

You **can't even BELONG** to Christ - **WITHOUT HIM**
& you **certainly can't** be **USED BY GOD At ALL** - without Him

The Holy Spirit IS the **Life & Power** of **God** Living **IN YOU**

NOW - What about that - **"BAPTIZED" in the Holy Spirit ??**
What about that - **Have you "RECEIVED" the Holy Spirit ??**

If the Holy Spirit DWELLS in Every Believer - WHY all the fuss about
Being **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit
Being **BAPTIZED** in the Holy Spirit
RECEIVING The Holy Spirit

Let me give you the **SHORT ANSWER** - ok?

We already read Jesus speaking in **JOHN 14:17**
where He **told the Disciples**

The Holy Spirit Dwells WITH YOU, & Will Be IN YOU (Jn 14:17)

The **Holy Spirit Dwells WITH US** - **BEFORE** we are Born Again
He **Dwells IN US** - **WHEN** we become Born Again

For the **First Disciples** - **The Holy Spirit INDWELT** them in **Jn 20:22**
- **After the Resurrection** - When **Jesus BREATHED** on them

But then - in **Acts 1:8** - **After** the **Holy Spirit** was already
Dwelling IN the **Disciples** - **Jesus Said** to the same Disciples

Acts 1:8 (ESV)

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Let me **say it again** - **Put it all together** in your **MIND**

BEFORE you are **Born Again** - The **Holy Spirit** is **WITH** you
WHEN you are **Born Again** - The **Holy Spirit** is **IN** you
& you **Receive POWER** - when the **Holy Spirit** Comes **UPON** you

The **Holy Spirit** is **WITH US** - **Even** when we **don't KNOW** it
The **Holy Spirit** is **IN US** - The **moment** we are **Born Again**

But **we need the POWER** of the **Holy Spirit** to come **UPON US**
If we are **going** to be **WITNESSES** for **Jesus Christ**

THAT'S why we're **commanded** to **WALK** in the Spirit - **GAL 5:16**
(**'Walk'** means to **order your steps** by His **Leading & Power**)

THAT'S why we're **comnded** to **BE FILLED** with the Spirit - **Eph 5:18**
(it **means** to be **continually BEING Filled** with the Spirit)

& **THAT'S why** Paul **asked** the Ephesian Believers in

Acts 19:2 (ESV)

2 . . . “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” . . .

What do you **MEAN** - ***Did I RECEIVE the Holy Spirit when I Believed?***
I **thought** **EVERYONE** **HAS** The **Spirit** **when** they **Believe**

But **if you keep Reading** in **Acts 19** - you **find out**
Paul's **talking** about the **UPON Experience** -
(*The Receive Power Experience*)

& here's the Really COOL thing -

The word RECEIVE used here in Acts 19:2

STRONG'S Lexicon DEFINES this word as

*to take to one's self, to make one's own . . .
to associate with as a companion*

& When used of a Person - this Word "RECEIVE" - Means
to give that person FULL ACCESS to your Life

Have you DONE THAT?

Have you Given the Holy Spirit FULL ACCESS to your LIFE?

Have you Made Him - YOUR OWN

Do you ASSOCIATE with Him as your DAILY COMPANION?

Are you WALKING in His POWER?

Are you Being Continually FILLED with HIS POWER?

IF NOT - You CAN BE - & You SHOULD BE

Francis Chan Quote

The Spirit is absolutely essential for fulfilling the mission we have been given. Unless the Spirit gives us the power to faithfully follow Jesus, we will follow in the footsteps of disobedient Israel.

Which means we will Drift Away from God

& Drift Straight TOWARD the World & Sin

So - Here's the BEST NEWS of ALL

In LUKE 11 - Jesus tells a story (right after the Lord's Prayer) about a very PERSISTENT Friend who needs some BREAD (Read it)

& Jesus USES this story to encourage us to be PERSISTENT in our ASKING, SEEKING, KNOCKING

In essence Jesus says

KEEP ON ASKING, & it will be Given to you

KEEP ON SEEKING, & you will Find

KEEP ON KNOCKING, & it will be Opened to you

& then to finish this teaching on PERSISTENT Asking, Seeking, Knocking - Jesus says in

Luke 11:13 (ESV)

13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

God WANTS us (Requires Us) - To be Continually, Dependently, SEEKING the FILLING of the Holy Spirit in our lives

WHY? - Because WITHOUT that continual FILLING of the Holy Spirit we are basically WORTHLESS in God's Plan

The Holy Spirit IS the LIFE of GOD - IN YOU

& to be USED BY GOD in His Great Plan of Redemption
We must be CONTINUALLY FILLED with HIS LIFE

& the LIFE of God Dwelling in us - IS GOD the Holy Spirit

& so - WHAT do we do with this Information ??

First - We should BE AFRAID !!!

Afraid that we may be Following Jesus IN OUR OWN STRENGTH

That's a terrible thing to do! - & it generally creates

EITHER - Pharisees or Backsliders . . . DON'T Do it!!

INSTEAD

ASK God to Continually FILL YOU with the Holy Spirit

Ask & Keep Asking

SEEK the Continual COMPANIONSHIP of the Holy Spirit

Always SEEK to be Walking with Him

KNOCK - & KEEP Knocking

For God to FILL YOU with His Holy Spirit

Let's do that right now

Let's Pray