

October 15, 2023

An Invitation to the Divine: Week 2

John 16:7 (NIV)

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

Luke 24:49 (NIV)

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

I want to share Good News with you about the Power of a Promise!

Most mornings at 7am I meet with a bunch of guys to go on a morning bike ride! They're all retired and older. They ride really well, and on occasion, when their pacemakers and meds are in sync, they can be hard to keep up with!

The reason why I'm out most mornings is because these dudes are always ready to ride, no matter the conditions. And it gives me great motivation to get after it because I've become convinced that I'll have some partners to ride with when I get there.

With that being said, let me ask you some questions:

- Has anyone ever struggled with Fear?
- Has anyone ever had a Problem?
- Anyone ever wanted to Give Up?

Did it STOP you!?

The disciples were about to embark upon the Greatest Commission that had ever been given. They were literally taking the reins of ministry from Jesus, and becoming caretakers to his most prized possession: His Church!

Jesus had Filled them with Faith, Assured them with a Promise, and was soon to Empower them with the Holy Spirit! And this would become the blueprint for all believers, even until this present time.

In Hebrews 11, we read about the stories of Faith! Most of these described were facing similar situations that the disciples were finding themselves in at this particular moment. Lost, confused, facing persecution, even death!

And yet by Faith, and with the confidence of a Promise, they endured, and today they are enshrined as Hero's of the Faith!

Jesus promised the disciples (and us) the Holy Spirit, who is our Counselor, our Comforter, our Advocate, and the needed Power for every believer to live Godly, and to advance the Gospel throughout the world!

Understanding Great Art: I need a skilled interpreter to help me understand the work of the master. That's the role of the Holy Spirit! He operates as...

I. The Spirit of Adoption

Romans 8:15 (NIV)

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

There is a difference between a Servant and a Son! One of the main differences is Intimacy, the right to be on the Inside (understanding of the plan).

John 15:15 (NIV)

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

A. Paul continues to write that we have the right to understand a relationship with the Father, not out of Fear, but one of Intimacy. Full Right as a Son or Daughter, through the Spirit's work of Transformation that takes place in our lives!

This "transformation" must originate as a belief system that wonderfully gets played out in our lifestyle.

God's Promise of Adoption is that you have an Invitation to a seat at the Table! He also operates as...

II. The Spirit of Life

Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the Law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.

Although we can have a negative view on the Law, most of them are written for our benefit.

God's Promise is that we have LIFE to the Full!

Romans 5:14 (NIV)

... death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam...

But it goes on to say, the Gift is not like the trespass. (*Romans 5:15 NIV*)

... the judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but THE GIFT followed many trespasses and brought justification. (*Romans 5:16 NIV*)

III. The Spirit of Grace- Hebrews 10:29

Spiritually, we are/were destitute, blind, unclean, and dead. Our souls were in peril of everlasting punishment. But then came Grace!

What do we need to know about Grace?

- A. Grace is not a Loan which requires repayment or return by the recipient. The fact that Grace is a GIFT means that nothing is owed in return.
- B. Grace requires no cost to the person who receives the gift, it is the GIVER, who bears the expense.
- C. Once a gift has been given, ownership of the gift has transferred and it is now ours to keep. When a gift changes hands, the giver permanently relinquishes all rights to renege or take back the gift in the future. God's grace is ours forever.
- D. Finally, the Bible teaches that Grace is completely unmerited (completely undeserved).