

JESUS' FINAL WORDS

By
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We read in Mark 16:15-18 and in verse 15 it says, -"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." The title over these verses is 'The Great Commission'. These were the words that Jesus said to all His followers before He ascended into Heaven to sit at the right hand of The Father. These are very impactful words.

The Lord said to me, some of my Church is here. They share the word but they have not chosen to go on to the proofs of the preaching. A few verses later, in verse 20, The Word states "they went out preaching everywhere and the Lord working with them and CONFIRMING the Word with SIGNS FOLLOWING."

When Jesus walked this earth and taught, He demonstrated with accompanying signs and wonders. Some of the Church has followed the other scriptures, verses 17 and 18 which state:

"AND these signs will follow those that BELIEVE IN MY NAME:

They shall cast out demons;

They will speak with new tongues;

They will take up serpents;

And if they drink any thing deadly, it will not hurt them;

They shall lay hands on the sick and they will recover."

There's an '**AND**' there because the Lord Jesus wants his whole Church doing these signs, not just a select few people. Is this gospel for only a few? Does God choose favorites? The answer to this is an astounding NO!!!! He does not have any favorites. He is No Respector Of Persons. What He will do for one, He will do for another. He loves us all the same. Do you believe in His name?

Jesus was about to depart from this world. He knew it was absolutely essential that His followers learn to rely entirely on the Holy Spirit for guidance and direction after He left.

It must have seemed strange to His followers as they listened to Jesus speak about the Holy Spirit. They had been accustomed to Jesus physically and visibly leading them, but now they were learning that the Spirit of God would become their Leader and Guide. This would be a Leader and Guide they could not see, could not touch, and could not audibly hear; yet they were supposed to follow Him just as they had followed Jesus.

They were probably thinking, what is the Holy Spirit's leadership and guidance going to be like in our lives? Does He act or think differently than Jesus? What is it going to be like to follow the Spirit of God?

Knowing these things were normal questions to ask, Jesus used these final days with His followers to dispel all fear and insecurity they might have felt about following the Holy Spirit's leadership and guidance. This is why Jesus was so careful to use key words when He spoke to them about the coming of the Holy Spirit and the importance of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

JOHN 14:16

For example, Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another comforter....."

I want to draw your attention to a very important word in this verse—the word "another". In Greek, there are two possible words for "another." The first is the Greek word 'allos' and the second is the Greek word 'heteros.' The word 'allos' means "one of the very same kind; same character; same everything"; or "nearly duplicate." The second word, 'heteros' means "one of another kind" or "one of a different kind." This word heteros forms the first part of the word heterosexual, which, of course, describes someone who has sexual relations with a person of the opposite sex.

The Greek word used in John 14:16 is the word 'allos'. The word 'allos' emphatically means that the Holy Spirit would be like Jesus in every way. This conveys a very strong and important message about the Spirit of God. Jesus wanted His followers to know that the Holy Spirit was just like Him.

Following the Holy Spirit wouldn't be any different than following Him, except the Spirit's leadership and guidance would be invisible rather than physical and visible, as the leadership of Jesus had been.

John 14:16 could be translated to mean: "I will pray the Father and He will send you Someone who is just like Me in every way. He will be identical to Me in the way He speaks, in the way He thinks, in the way He operates, in the way He sees things, and the way He does things. He will be exactly like Me in every way. When the Holy Spirit is here, it will be just as if I AM here because We think, behave, act and operate exactly the same."

Earlier in John 14:8-9, Philip told the Lord, ".....Show us the Father, and it will suffice us". Jesus answered, "Have I been so long time with you, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He that has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, "Show us the Father?"

Jesus was the exact image of the Father when He walked this earth. Hebrews 1:3 (Amplified Bible) declares, "He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of [God's] nature....." This means that Jesus reflected the character of His Heavenly Father in every way. That is why Jesus told Philip, "He that has seen Me has seen the Father."

Although the Father, Son-Jesus, and Holy Spirit are each distinct Members of the Godhead, there is only one God, and each Person of the Godhead shares the same substance and essence. So if you see Jesus, you see the Father. By looking at Jesus, you can discover and see the Father's will. Jesus said and did exactly what the Father would say and do. His life, His attitudes and His actions were the exact and absolute manifested will of the Father, for the two are united in nature, character, thought and in deed.

JOHN 14:10-11

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

JOHN 14:12

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also;"

As Jesus teaches His followers about the Holy Spirit, He takes this truth one step further. Just as Jesus is the express image of the Father in every way, now Jesus unmistakably tells His followers that when the Holy Spirit comes, He will exactly represent Jesus in every word and deed. That's why the word 'Allos' is used to make this point. The Word leaves no room for doubt that the Holy Spirit will be exactly like Jesus.

The word 'allos' tells us that the Holy Spirit perfectly represents the life and nature of Jesus. Jesus did only what the Heavenly Father would do, and now the Holy Spirit will do only what Jesus would do. As the Representative of Jesus on the earth, the Holy Spirit never acts on His own or out of character with the life of Jesus Christ.

You see, the Holy Spirit was sent to bring the life of Jesus living through us!!! Jesus is the head, we are the body. Just as Jesus told Philip, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father," now He is telling us, "If you have the Holy Spirit, it will be just as if you have Me."

In John 20, Jesus appears to the disciples and gives to them salvation and the commission to go and function as He had done.

John 20:19-22

Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where **the disciples** were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, "**Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.**" And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Now at this point I need to explain some things about this scripture. The Greek language has no capitals and very few punctuation marks. The Greek word 'pneuma' that we translate spirit, in the Greek means Wind. As we read it in content, we understand it to mean the spirit realm or an evil spirit or our spirit or the Holy Spirit. It is by the content of the text as to which meaning it describes.

It is easy to determine if it is the spirit realm or an evil spirit, but there is confusion as to whether the text is describing our 'Born Again' spirit, which is our new creation spirit, or the Holy Spirit. Because of the confusion, capitals were put on the word spirit to mean the Holy Spirit when in truth, it is describing our spirit.

What Jesus did was to breathe into them their new, born again spirit, not the Holy Spirit. The Original Greek says that Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the spirit that is holy". Remember, it is by the content of the text that we are able to discern which spirit the text is talking about. "Receive the spirit that is holy" is describing our newly created spirit man, not the Holy Spirit who at that time had not yet been sent to earth.

Since the Holy Spirit had not yet been sent to earth as the Helper and Teacher, He was not available to the disciples at that time because Jesus had not gone to Heaven and sent Him to earth.

Jesus Himself said it was very important that He returned to His Heavenly home. In John, He even said it was for our benefit that He returns to sit at the Father's right hand. He even said that if He did not leave, the Holy Spirit could not come.

JOHN 16:7

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

JOHN 14:26 Amplified Bible

But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.

JOHN 16:13-15

"... when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare *it* to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare *it* to you."

Do you see the beauty and the unity of the Godhead in these verses? Jesus himself instructed His followers that they must ask for the Holy Spirit to come into them.

Luke 11:13 says "how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" I want to draw your attention to an important word in the verse, the word "ask". In the Greek this word is 'aiteo' and means: to ask, petition. The word describes an individual asking something from God. The word denotes insistent asking without qualms, not commanding God, but solidly presenting a requisition whose items He longs to distribute.

Jesus was very insistent with His followers, for He commanded them to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father. Jesus knew it was imperative for them to be filled with Holy Spirit so they could be led and guided by Holy Spirit just as they had been led and guided by Him.

ACTS 1:4-5

Jesus commanded His followers to go to Jerusalem and not to depart and wait for the promise of the Father,....which, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

ACTS 1:3, 5

He presented himself to His followers for 40 days; "to whom He presented Himself alive after His suffering by many **infallible proofs**, being seen by many during the forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God." "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

I Corinthians 15.3-6

"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas (Peter), then by the twelve. After **that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.....**"

When did 500 brethren see Jesus at once? Right before He ascended up into heaven!!!!

Jesus spoke emphatically, about the Holy Spirit, to His followers. He told them many truths about the importance of the Spirit of God who was to come after He ascended. In Acts 1:8, He said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." Jesus knew the power of the Holy Spirit for He Himself was indwelt with the Holy Spirit after His water baptism in Mathew 3:14-17.

Jesus did no mighty works, signs or miracles until He had been filled with Holy Spirit. Jesus knew His followers needed the Holy Spirit to lead and guide them and do the mighty works that He had done on this earth.

So His followers obeyed as Jesus had told them; In Acts 1:13-14, they went to Jerusalem to an upper room where they stayed and waited in one accord with prayer. There were about 120 of them. Then in Acts 2:1-4, they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit & spoke in tongues!!!

I've often heard Christians ask, "I wonder what it must have been like to walk with Jesus. Wouldn't it be wonderful to walk with Him and to hear His voice and talk to Him?" But believers who ask these kinds of questions don't understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit. If they did, they'd know that asking for and receiving Holy Spirit to dwell inside them is just like having Jesus at your side.

You and I must stop looking backward and grieving over what we missed by not living 2000 years ago. Instead we must learn to let Holy Spirit lead and guide us, just as He did in the Early Church. Jesus' physical absence did not stop early believers from performing healing the sick, miracles, raising the dead, casting out demons and bringing multitudes to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Because the Holy Spirit was with and in them, the ministry of Jesus continued uninterrupted in their midst.

Never forget, as a child of God filled with the Spirit of God, He is working within you and alongside you every moment of the day. And because Holy Spirit is the exact representation of your Lord and Savior, it's just like having Jesus right there at your side.

Our Lord's last words to His followers revolved around the importance of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. That's how serious this message was to Him!! Since He considered this subject to be so important, why don't you open your heart to the work of the Holy Spirit today? Let the Holy Spirit represent Jesus to you, your family, where you work, and your city, just as He did with believers who lived during the Early Church. We read about the Early Church in the Book of Acts.

If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith and Jesus will be your Lord!

Salvation Prayer

Heavenly Father, I come to you in the name of Jesus. Your word says, 'whoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved' and 'if I will confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in my heart that God has raised him from the dead, I will be saved.' [Acts 2.21; Romans 10.9-10] You said my salvation would be the result of the Holy Spirit giving me new birth. [John 3.5-6, 15-16] and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Holy Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues. [Romans 8.9-11; Luke 11.13; Acts 2.4]

I take you at your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord of my life. And I believe in my heart that God has raised Him from the dead. Thank you for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as you have promised, and being Lord in my life. Amen