

“The Holy Spirit”

Part Two

Last week there was more I wanted to share, but not enough space, so this week I'm adding a few thoughts. I don't know how many of you have watched "The Chosen" but if you haven't, I would highly recommend it! It gives us a glimpse of what everyday life with Jesus might have been like. As I watched the last several episodes of season four, Jesus is frustrated that his disciples have been with him for such a long time, and although they believe in Him, they still don't understand Him.

Numerous times throughout the gospels, Jesus challenged His disciples, saying "do you not understand?" I can relate to their ignorance - before I got saved, all this Bible stuff was like a foreign language to me! I couldn't understand for the same reason the disciples couldn't, and the answer is found in 1 Cor. 2:14: "*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.*" (NIV) The Spirit did not come until Jesus' death and resurrection!

When we surrender our lives to Christ, we are born again, and the Holy Spirit comes in and begins to transform us from the inside out, sanctifying and purifying us, something He will continue to do in us until the day we die! In John 16:13a Jesus said "*But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth,,,*" (NIV) I can bear witness to this because I started reading a KJV Bible I had received as a teen, and all of a sudden I understood it! That's when I realized I had something really good because the Holy Spirit was giving me the understanding I had lacked!

The disciples followed Jesus, observing all that He said and did; they believed, but couldn't comprehend the real reason He came. Take an example from life today - think about Facebook for a minute. There are many individuals (and groups) who have a large number of followers, and those followers "like" or "love" much of what these individuals say or do, but they are merely followers, not friends.

Nowadays, Jesus has a huge number of "followers" who like or love all that He said or did, but Jesus isn't looking for mere "followers;" He wants dedicated believers who are empowered by and led by the Holy Ghost, impacting the world around us! Here's what Jesus said in John 15:15 "*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. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit...*" (NIV) Jesus is sending you a "friend" request, and if you accept His offer, the Holy Spirit will come to empower, enable and equip you, and your life will never be the same! But don't stop there - keep seeking MORE of Him! Amen!