

What Now? / Part 2

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Thread: The Holy Spirit truly is God's gift to you.

Point 1: Living on mission is impossible without the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

"Don't cling to me," Jesus said, "for I haven't yet ascended to the Father. But go find my brothers and tell them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.' Mary Magdalene found the disciples and told them, 'I have seen the Lord!' Then she gave them his message. That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! 'Peace be with you,' he said. As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you.' Then he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

John 20:17-22 NLT

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John 20:19-23 NLT

"Peace be with you."

- His presence brings PEACE when we are afraid.
- His death for our sins gives us PEACE with God—we are reconciled to God. (Colossians 1:19-22)

Point 2: The Holy Spirit is a gift of PEACE to us.

"But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you. 'I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.'" John 14:26-27 NLT

"If you forgive anyone's sins, they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

- The context is crucial for understanding: They have just been given authority and the Spirit's empowerment to teach people about the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ. It's their responsibility to both affirm and hold people accountable to that truth.

John 20:19-29 NLT

- Jesus cares about reassuring Thomas.
- Jesus proves His resurrection again.
 - We can trust in the reliable witness of Scripture and the apostles' accounts that Jesus is who He said He was.

"Blessed are those who believe without seeing me."

- Blessed – deep, spiritual happiness given by God
- Believe without seeing – through verifiable historical events, Scripture and truth affirmed by God's Spirit

Unbelief keeps us from experiencing the PEACE of the Holy Spirit.

- If you truly believe, you will trust Him with your life.
- If you trust Him, you will experience PEACE.
"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock." Isaiah 26:3-4 NLT

Point 3: Jesus restores us individually and to His mission.

John 21:1-19

- "Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means 'rock'),[a] and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell[b] will not conquer it." Matthew 16:18 NLT
- The Good News is that what is impossible with man is possible with God. Luke 17:18 NLT
- "For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable." Romans 11:29 NIV
- It is how we respond to our mistakes that determines whether we are disqualified.
- Before we can fulfill the mission that God has for us, we need to get healthy.

Challenge:

1. Lean deeper into your relationship with the Holy Spirit.
2. What step of trust can you take to experience more of the Holy Spirit's peace?
3. What in your life needs restoration? What steps do you need to take to fully join Christ in His mission?

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