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THE COMFORTER

I can't even imagine what it was like to walk on earth with Jesus. The disciples had been with him three and a half years. They were "discipled" in the things of God. They saw faith in action. They saw Jesus feed the multitudes. They saw him open blind eyes. They saw him heal the sick. They saw him curse a fig tree and it died.

They depended upon him for everything they were going to do. Now, he is telling them that he was going to go away. John 16:4-6 *"But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I go my way to him that sent me; and none of you asketh me, Whither goest thou? But because I have said these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart."*

Jesus didn't tell them at the beginning of his ministry that he would be leaving. If he had do you think they would have followed him? It is doubtful. Most of us want to have our "leader or teacher" with us forever. We don't want to think of that person not being with us. Those that are hungry for God want to sit in the presence of those that have paid the price in their knowledge of the Lord, and glean all that we can. When something happens to that influence, it can shake our very core.

In verse 7 Jesus explains why he has to leave. *"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him to you."* Under the Old Covenant (which Jesus walked under while he was on earth) the Holy Spirit only came on the prophet, the priest and the king. In order for Holy Spirit to come upon each individual as Joel prophesied in Joel 2, there had to be a new and better covenant. Jesus knew the only way to bring that covenant was through his sacrificial death, and his blood being placed on the altar in heaven. Then, the New Covenant would be confirmed. It could not happen any other way. The disciples did not understand, but listened. In verse 4 it states that they would remember his words, and that is just what happened.

The Holy Spirit is now available to every person that accepts Christ as their savior, but that is just the beginning. The Holy Spirit is in you, but Jesus said The Holy Spirit would flow out of our bellies like a river. We receive this when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit. This baptism opens the door for us to receive all of the gifts God has for us. John the Baptist baptized with water, but said one would come that baptizes us with the Holy Ghost and fire. At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell on all those that were in the Upper Room, filling them with the power to be a witness. Yes, they all spoke with other tongues, but the baptism of the Holy Spirit is more than that. It gives us the power to be a witness for Jesus Christ. This transformed fearful men that needed their "leader" into mighty men and women of God that turned the world upside down.

The Comforter has come, and is available to all that ask for Him.