

**BIBLE TEACHING SERIES**  
**I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH – *Jesus***

**CHAPTER THREE**  
**WAIT FOR THE GIFT**

Introduction

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:4-5

Of utmost importance to Jesus was introducing His followers to the Holy Spirit. Interestingly, on this final time doing this, it was at meal-time. This was a relaxed family atmosphere, a time of intimate fellowship and joy - a time of peaceful reflection and sharing with loved ones. Jesus wanted those with Him to understand that the personality, presence and work of the Holy Spirit would be similar to His own. This is just as important today as it was then.

The following are three quotes from R. A. Torrey’s book, “The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit”, first published in 1910, 262 pages in length, is available without cost online. I highly recommend this book. Go to: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/30241/30241-pdf.pdf>

Before one can correctly understand the work of the Holy Spirit, he must first of all know the Spirit Himself. A frequent source of error and fanaticism about the work of the Holy Spirit is the attempt to study and understand His work without first of all coming to know Him as a Person

It is also of the highest importance from the practical standpoint that we decide whether the Holy Spirit is merely some mysterious and wonderful power that we in our weakness and ignorance are somehow to get hold of and use, or whether the Holy Spirit is a real Person, infinitely holy, infinitely wise, infinitely mighty and infinitely tender who is to get hold of and use us. The former conception is utterly heathenish, not essentially different from the thought of the African fetish worshipper who has his god whom he uses. The latter conception is sublime and Christian. If we think of the Holy Spirit as so many do as merely a power or influence, our constant thought will be, “How can I get more of the Holy Spirit”, but if we think of Him in the Biblical way as a Divine Person, our thought will rather be, “How can the Holy Spirit have more of me?”

The conception of the Holy Spirit as a Divine influence or power that we are somehow to get hold of and use, leads to self-exaltation and self-sufficiency. One who so thinks of the Holy Spirit and who at the same time imagines that he has received the Holy Spirit will almost inevitably be full of spiritual pride and strut about as if he belonged to some superior order of Christians. One frequently hears such persons say, “I am a Holy Ghost man,” or “I am a Holy Ghost woman.” But if we once grasp the thought that the Holy Spirit is a Divine Person of infinite majesty, glory and holiness and power, who in marvellous condescension has come into our hearts to make His abode there and take

possession of our lives and make use of them, it will put us in the dust and keep us in the dust. I can think of no thought more humbling or more overwhelming than the thought that a person of Divine majesty and glory dwells in my heart and is ready to use even me.

### Wait for the Gift

“Wait for the gift my Father promised”, was the command Jesus gave before His ascension. Nothing of importance could happen until the Holy Spirit came. Church construction could not begin without His presence and power. Since the Holy Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, as recorded in Acts 2, there is no need to wait today – He is already here.

Nevertheless, there is a great need and necessity for the church to “wait” today. It is quite possible, and often happens, that followers of Jesus and church congregations do not consult the Holy Spirit about many things. God never forces Himself on anyone, not even His church. He even allows a church to self-destruct if it chooses to do so. Many Christians live in spiritual poverty simply due to human independence and a corresponding lack of dependence on the Holy Spirit. Time spent on learning to learn from and surrender to the Holy Spirit is never wasted.

Close to the end of the time that Jesus was able to spend with His disciples before His death He said many things about the Holy Spirit. His discourse is found in John 14-16.

### Advocate (Comforter)

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever... John 14:16(a)

Jesus knew that since He would soon be leaving them they would need the Holy Spirit to take His place. The word “advocate” comes from the Greek *parákletos*. The word means “a counselor, a helper, an intercessor, an advocate, a strengthener, or a standby.” The word is composed of two commonly used words: *pára*, which means “along-side of,” like two parallel lines, and *kaléo*, which means “to call”. Brought together, they make one word which literally means “someone called along-side of another.”

Immediately prior to speaking of the Holy Spirit as our advocate, Jesus said:

Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves. <sup>12</sup>Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. <sup>13</sup>And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. <sup>14</sup>You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:11-14

These are amazing words indeed. In chapter one we quoted Ephesians 2:19-22 which said, in part,

And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” Ephesians 2: 22

Amazingly, works greater than those Jesus did while on earth happens through His church today. This happens only through those who are “being built together. Those who have been given great spiritual gifts but operate those gifts independently from connection with and

accountability to fellow believers pose a great threat to the church. Many have been abused and otherwise damaged by such persons. Conversely, those who join their lives and gifts with other believers in a church become valuable to the efforts of Jesus to build His church through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit comes along side us today, just as Jesus did at the beginning, to deliver the blessings and anointing that Jesus made possible through His death and resurrection.

#### With you – In you

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—<sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:16

While Jesus was in the world the Holy Spirit was both with Him and in Him. Since the disciples were with Jesus it meant the Holy Spirit was also with them. The Father would not send the Holy Spirit to be “in” them until after Jesus left. The gift of the Holy Spirit is actually the gift of Himself and is the gift of His indwelling presence.

It is quite possible today for people to be in the presence of the Holy Spirit without the Holy Spirit being present in the person. The same is true for a church. Churches can have much that is associated with the Holy Spirit while at the same time lack the fullness of His indwelling presence and power.

Conversely, the most amazing good comes through churches that are filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. <sup>38</sup>Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.”<sup>1</sup> <sup>39</sup>By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7:37-39

#### The Holy Spirit will teach you

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. <sup>13</sup>But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. John 16:12-13

During the time that Jesus was with His disciples much of what He said was not understood by them. Their understanding was limited to the natural world. It would take His resurrection and personal appearances afterward for this to change. We need the Holy Spirit today to help us sort out the things that really matter and to discern what is true vs. what is false. Paul said this:

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. <sup>18</sup>I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, <sup>19</sup>and his

incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength <sup>20</sup> he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:17-22

A powerful prayer indeed, with a magnitude that takes us beyond human limitation and into the realm of the kingdom of God manifested through His church on earth.

Even so, let it be!