

The Sending Forth

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses (Acts 1:8)

The Father completed His work at the beginning of creation and rested (Genesis 2:2). Christ finished His assignment at the cross and “having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time onward until His enemies be made a footstool for His feet (Hebrews 10:12-13).” The Holy Spirit now continues this work by empowering us with the results of Christ’s victory at the cross. On the night before He was crucified, Jesus said to His disciples, “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you . . . He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you (John 16:7,14).”

The Holy Spirit pours Christ’s spirit and mind into us, melding and merging with ours, sometimes transforming, sometimes annihilating, never leaving our spirits or minds unchanged. 1 Corinthians 2:12 says that “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God,” and 1 Corinthians 2:16 tells us that “we have the mind of Christ.”

Those who receive the nature of the resurrected Christ are not only changed themselves, they are empowered to change others. Even before Christ’s resurrection, Christ had authorized the disciples to give others the results of the forgiveness of the Old Covenant when He commanded them to “heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons.” He said “freely you received, freely give (Matthew 10:8).” What they had previously received from Christ, they were to pass on. After His resurrection, He said to His disciples, “‘Peace be with 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. If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained (John 20:21-23).’” Since the resurrection, the character of the resurrected Christ, with all His power to annihilate

sin, is being passed on to all who will receive.

The Holy Spirit has been sent into the world with a mission to accomplish. So have we!

One of the symbols of the Holy Spirit is a river. A river must continue to flow in order to not become stagnant. We have received incredible power from the Spirit of God. But we must continually send that healing and forgiving power forth if we desire to have the Holy Spirit vibrantly alive within us.

Another symbol for the Holy Spirit is olive oil. When a widow in dire financial need came to the prophet Elisha for help, the answer for her also reveals a promise to us:

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord; and the creditor has come to take my two children to be his slaves." And Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house except a jar of oil." Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels at large for yourself from all your neighbors, even empty vessels; do not get a few. And you shall go in and shut the door behind you and your sons, and pour out into all these vessels; and you shall set aside what is full." So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons; they were bringing the vessels to her and she poured. And it came about when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not one vessel more." And the oil stopped (2 Kings 4:1-6).

Her blessing kept coming as long as she kept pouring. As long as we keep blessing, God continues blessing. She did not have much, even as we often feel we have little. But as she poured out the little that she had (actually the only thing), miraculous increase occurred. Similarly with the power of the Holy Spirit: as we give the little that we have already received, we will continually be renewed, refreshed, and filled, so that we can give out again.

There is a long way to go before the response will come that "There is not one vessel more."