



The DAILY JESUS NEWS #345
Jesus' Resurrection and Eternal Ministry
Six More Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Over 40 Days

Jesus' Tenth Resurrection Appearance: The Holy Spirit Command & Promise
Acts 1.4-8

=====

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command:

*“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for what my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.
5 For John immersed in water, but in a few days you will be immersed in the Holy Spirit.”*

6 Having gathered together around him, they were asking him, saying, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?”

7 He said to them: *“It is not for you to know the dates or seasons the Father has set by his own authority.*

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = ^{MT}, Mark = ^M, Luke = ^L, John = ^J, Acts = ^A. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

CONTEXT DIGEST	
Location	Jerusalem
Timeline	May (Month 40)
Jesus' Life Context	Stage IX: The Resurrection and Eternal Ministry of Jesus
	The Resurrection and 40 Day Ministry of Jesus
	6 More Resurrection Appearances of Jesus Over 40 Days
Title:	Jesus' 10th Resurrection Appearance: The Holy Spirit Promise and Command

Today's reading records Jesus' final resurrection appearance and words to his disciples prior to his ascension. It is therefore extremely important, like the our Lord's seven last sayings on the cross.

This was the tenth appearance recorded in Scripture. However, Luke's language in Acts 1.1-4 makes it clear that Jesus appeared many times to his disciples over the 40 day period. When we consider that the first five of the Scriptural appearances occurred on Easter Sunday, we can surmise that appearances #6 through #10 (today's reading) are just a few of the many times that Jesus revealed himself in visible form.

The gospel writers carefully selected the most important appearances to include in their respective gospels, which collectively represented the content of all the written and unwritten appearances.

Both Jesus and Luke's wording tell us that this was his final appearance, occurring just before the Ascension. Jesus spoke of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit *"after a few (lit. 'not many') days."* He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Spirit's power to come to them. He was setting them up for their final transition into the age of relating to his invisible presence through the agency of the Spirit.

This had been his theme in the Farewell Discourse, and his resurrection appearances. It was soon become a life-changing reality for the 120 disciples who were with Jesus in Jerusalem.

Jesus' command/promise and instruction in this tenth appearance expanded on the **"keep on going"** subcommand of the Great Commission, as well as the connection between his omnipotent power--the rationale for the Commission--and the the promise of his presence that ended the Commission. The Holy Spirit was the key linking all these together.

Jesus had said **"keep on going"** to all the nations to make disciples of them. Acts 1.8 made it clear that the Holy Spirit's power would make all disciples **"witnesses about me."** Jesus is the gospel. We testify to what we have personally experienced concerning him through the gospel, by the power of the Spirit. Acts 1.8 closely parallels LK 24.46-48, Jesus' summary of the message of the Old Testament that Jesus had given the 120 disciples in the Upper Room on the evening of his resurrection.

Thus, the priority of "going" to all the nations, from Jerusalem to the very ends of the earth, as witnesses of Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit was Jesus' consistent message from the beginning of his forty days of post-resurrection ministry, to the very end. He never wavered, digressed, or diverted from this vision.

Now, he was turning all the operations and management of this mission over to the ministry of his Spirit. Just as Jesus was faithful to the uttermost in fulfilling his mission to do the Father's will, the Spirit would prove faithful to the uttermost in releasing the power of Jesus in and through his body, the church. As Jesus said: **"You WILL receive power when the Spirit comes upon you."**

Jesus returned to the imagery of immersion (baptism) to describe the arrival of the Holy Spirit in just a few days for these disciples. John the Immerser had made the original promise that just as he immersed repentant sinners in water, the soon-coming Messiah would immerse them in the Holy Spirit (MT 3.11; MK 3.8; LK 3.16; Jn 1.33-34). There is a tremendously important truth here.

"Messiah" means "anointed one" in Hebrew ("Christ" in Greek). The Messiah would be full of the Holy Spirit and minister in his power in a way never seen before on this earth. This was true of Jesus, because he had been living in fellowship and unity with the Father and Holy Spirit eternally. He was in perfect harmony with the Spirit in every aspect of his life and ministry on earth to the perfection-level of the Trinity.

Jesus described the essence of the Holy Spirit's power in his own ministry by reading Isaiah 61.1-2 and applying it directly to himself when he visited Nazareth in LK 4.16-30.

"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR."

For Jesus, the power of the Spirit meant the ability to proclaim the gospel. Furthermore, the evidence that he was the Messiah was not just the anointing upon him. It was pre-eminently his ability to bestow the same Holy Spirit--to the same degree-- on everyone who believed in him. As John the Immerser had promised: **"He will immerse you in the Holy Spirit."** This is what Jesus was referring to at the beginning of his tenth resurrection appearance.

Just as the ability to proclaim the gospel was the sign of Jesus' anointing by the Spirit, he was telling us that the power of the Spirit to make us witnesses to the same gospel that he proclaimed and became for us is the pre-eminent sign of his anointing upon us. This is how he "immerses" us in the same Spirit that empowered him.

Our faithfulness in **"going to the ends of the earth"** to witness in the power of the Spirit is the proof that Jesus is truly the Messiah--the one who has the ability to pour out his Spirit on everyone who believes in him. The power of the Spirit and our faithfulness to **"make disciples of all nations"** are the twin keys to the coming of Jesus' reign unto this earth. This is what he was ascending back to heaven to orchestrate as the Ruler and Commander of the universe.

APPLICATION:

We have often pointed out the theme of the Great Commission in Jesus' life and ministry in the DAILY JESUS NEWS. This has always been because Jesus himself was making that emphasis. We have been reminded today that this was Jesus' key vision for the world, and his disciples, from the beginning of his ministry to the very end. This is his heartbeat.

We post-Pentecost believers do not have to "wait" for the power of the Holy Spirit. We received it the minute we believed in Jesus, when the Spirit came to indwell us as the seal from Jesus that he had received our faith in him as genuine.

We do have the need, however, to prioritize the power of the Spirit above everything else in our life. Either we are believing in, praying for and relying upon the Holy Spirit, or else we are relying on our own human strength and abilities. This is true every moment we live. Jesus' command and promise to us is that the power of the Spirit will enable us to obey him, and therefore confidently tell others about we have personally experienced in him.

It is up to us to make a life filled with the power of the Spirit our unending priority, as we seek to stay on mission to "keep on going" to all people to share the message of Jesus with them.

How is your relationship with the Holy Spirit coming along? Are you as filled with his power as Jesus has commanded and promised you to be?

What changes do you need to make in the coming year, in order to witness about Jesus more faithfully? When will you begin?