

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

LIVING FOR JESUS

RLJ-2010

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PART 1: JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

There is no clear-cut doctrine laid out in the New Testament. Take salvation as an example. Jesus brings it up in His conversation with Nicodemus, but provides no further information than humanity must be born again. There are tidbits spread out across the New Testament, but no specific book and chapter explains it in detail.

The four Gospels inform us what Jesus did and taught His disciples. The Book of Acts is a running and limited timeline of the early church, the epistles are instructions for the independent churches and individuals, and the Book of Revelation reveals the future.

Luke's introduction to the Book of Acts makes it clear that Jesus is ruling from heaven through the Holy Spirit.

"The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen." (Acts 1:1-2)

The purpose of this series is to lay out a chronological understanding of Jesus' doctrine and how He wants us to live on earth.

JESUS & THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit, not just to the early church, but to us as well thousands of years later. This promise was exclusive to believers in Christ.

"If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (John 14:15-17)

Even though He was ascended and sitting at the right hand of God the Father, Jesus would nevertheless come to us through the Holy Spirit.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you." (John 14:18)

Jesus is the redeemer of mankind, but it is the role of the Holy Spirit to draw people to Christ, enabling them to repent and believe in the God-man as the Messiah

"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..."



And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.” (John 6:44a, 65)

THE GOSPEL PLAN

The four Gospels reveal the Son of God was incarnated to redeem mankind on the cross, reinforce spiritual principles, and even lay down some new ones. This plan predated the Garden of Eden and even the angels. It dates so far back that we can only refer to it as “eternity past.”

“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” (Revelation 13:8)

The angels – holy and unholy – were ignorant of this plan that was only known to the Godhead.

“But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Corinthians 2:7-8)

It was necessary – according the plan formulated by the Godhead – for Jesus to do His part and then the Holy Spirit would replace Him on earth. That is why the God-man stated He needed to leave, so the next phase of the plan could go into effect.

“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 unto you.” (John 16:7)

When Jesus was on earth as the God-man, He could only be in one place at a time. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent; the third person of the Godhead is present in heaven, the entire universe, and on the earth simultaneously. Even more remarkable, He is also able to live concurrently inside each believer in Christ.

APOSTLES NOT READY

The four Gospels are full of Jesus’ teachings, many of them privately to His disciples, but even so, there was yet more the Son of God wanted to impart, but He knew they were not ready and this is why the God-man limited His teachings to general spiritual truths.

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12)

The disciples were driven by an overwhelming Kabbalistic doctrine that was reinforced in the synagogue system:

- ❖ A militant Messiah to drive out the Romans.

- ❖ Israel restored to its golden age as it was with King Solomon.
- ❖ For the Jews to rule the world and subjugate the Gentiles.

This mindset is brought out in their questioning following the resurrection.

“When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” (Acts 1:6)

SPIRIT OF TRUTH

Jesus referred to the third person of the Godhead as the “Spirit of truth” who would reveal what the church needed to know. The Holy Spirit would prove to be the best friend of the early church and down through the ages.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.” (John 16:13-14)

The Holy Spirit dictated the doctrine of the early church – when allowed – and sometimes the apostles created their own doctrine out of prejudice based upon the Talmud.

Case in point? Their limited fulfillment of the great commission. The early church was Jewish and their preaching only targeted Jews because they saw no value in the Gentiles.

It took divine intervention by Jesus through the Holy Spirit to reverse this discriminatory trend and open the eyes of the apostles that Gentiles had just as much value as Jews in God’s eyes. **Acts 10:1-48; 11:1-18**

The irony is that the council in Jerusalem failed to convey the Mosaic law to the Gentiles – omitting the sacrificial part of the law fulfilled by Jesus – and instead gave them neutered instructions such as abstaining from pollutions of idols, fornication, things strangled, and from blood. **Acts 15:19-20; 28-29**

As I stated earlier, Luke’s introduction to the Book of Acts makes it clear that Jesus is ruling from heaven through the Holy Spirit.

*“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, **after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments** unto the apostles whom he had chosen.”*

(Acts 1:1-2)

It must have been frustrating for Jesus, trying to get His church of redeemed sinners to line up with the program of the Godhead.

SUMMARY

The Holy Spirit ensured the writings of the apostles and other writers were compiled into what we call today the New Testament. The doctrine is not written in chronological order, nevertheless, everything a Christian needs to know has been recorded in the sixty-six books of the Bible.

The goal of this series is to make it easy for you to understand who Jesus is, how to be born again, and how to live a life that is pleasing to God.

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?