

Bethel Temple Children's Ministry (BTCM)

Sunday, April 26, 2020

The Promise of The Father

Greetings, Everyone.

Last week, we saw Jesus ascend to Heaven. Before He leaves, He instructs the disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father, who is the Holy Spirit. With the emotional roller coaster of events that had recently transpired in their world during the past few days, the disciples had forgotten many things that Jesus had spoken to them about His death, burial, and resurrection. But Jesus, the patient mentor, understands the complexities of His fearfully and wonderfully made creation and begins His ascension farewell as follows:

"And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John (the Baptist) truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (Acts 1:4,5)

The evening prior to His arrest, Jesus pours His heart out to the disciples. He knows He is about to leave them for a season. He says to them in John 14:26, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you." In verses 27-29 of the same chapter, He gives them the gift of peace and tells them not to be afraid or worried. He reminds them that He told them He would go away to His Father, and that they should be glad because His Father is greater than He. Jesus says He wanted to tell them of these events in advance so they will believe. Although they understood the words He spoke, they did not comprehend the meaning behind the words. How could they? How can the natural mind understand the things of the Spirit? Jesus did not seek to overwhelm them with details and explanations. There was no earthly time for that. He knew when He left and the Spirit of Truth came, He, the Spirit of Truth (John 14:17, 16:13), would teach them all things and bring to their remembrance the things He told them.

In this week's lesson we are introduced to a few of the names and ministries of the Holy Spirit as mentioned in John 14:16,17,26, Acts 1:4, and Acts 1:8. I pray we receive all the Father has for us as we learn about the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost Sunday is May 31, 2020. Our lessons from last week until then will focus on learning about the Holy Spirit, waiting for the Promise, and how to wait. What happened when He arrived? How did the disciples know when He arrived? What did they do after He arrived? What do we do? How can we receive Him? Do we have to wait?

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 16:9, "for there is a wide- open door for me to preach and teach here. So much is happening, but there are many enemies." (The Living Bible - TLB) I would add the door is open for you, as parents and caregivers, as well. Let us join together in prayer believing for God's will to be done in the lives of our children. Let us welcome Him to show Himself strong on behalf of our children. I pray the anointing of the Holy Spirit rest on you as you prepare your hearts and minds to minister to your children concerning the Holy Spirit in their lives. Concerning the words and ways of our Lord:

"You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up."

(Deuteronomy 16:7) "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:8) "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

Abundant blessings,

Pastor Vanessa

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