

John 20:19-23

- 19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."
- 20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.
- 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."
- 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.
- 23 If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

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1. The church follows in the footsteps of the church's Lord.
2. When Jesus began His public ministry, He was prepared and set forth for that ministry by the Holy Spirit coming upon Him.
 - a. at His Baptism the Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove.
 - b. As He began His preaching ministry following His temptation by Satan (which immediately followed His Baptism). Luke 4:13-21, "And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.¹⁴ And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country.¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.¹⁷ And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the

eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.²¹ And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

3. So also the Lord's church is prepared, set apart and empowered by the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit who bestows His gifts/graces to prepare them for carrying on the ministry of the Gospel and setting them forth for continuing the Lord's work and fulfilling His commission to make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19)
 - a. John 20:22-23 "Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."
 - b. the breathing in John 20:22 is a demonstration of transmission. The Holy Spirit who came upon the Lord as He began His ministry now is given to the disciples.
 - c. the work of the church is to proclaim the Word, the message of salvation in Jesus. The Holy Spirit works through the Word.
 - d. those who receive the Word, the message, in the gift of faith are also receiving the working of the Holy Spirit. They are forgiven. Tell them!
 - e. those who reject the Word, the message, reject the Holy Spirit and His working. They are not forgiven. Tell them!
4. Jesus promised the disciples would receive the Holy Spirit to do the work of making disciples—by the spreading of the Word
 - a. John 15:26-27 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.²⁷ And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.
 - b. Luke 24:44-49 Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead,⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise

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- of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”
- c. Acts 1:8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
5. The gift of the Holy Spirit enables and empowers people of faith, who then live guided by the Word and Spirit, making disciples.
- a. Acts 2:1–8 When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. ⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?
- b. Acts 2:37–48 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Be saved from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. ⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.
- c. Acts 4:31, “And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.
- d. Acts 9:17–20 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” ¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he rose and was baptized; ¹⁹ and taking food, he was strengthened. For some days he was with the disciples at Damascus. ²⁰ And immediately he proclaimed Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”
- e. Acts 9:28–31 So [Paul] went in and out among them at Jerusalem, preaching boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ And he spoke and disputed against the Hellenists. But they were seeking to kill him. ³⁰ And when the brothers learned this, they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus. ³¹ So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.
- f. Titus 3:4–7 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷ so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.
- p. 1 Corinthians 6:19–20 Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, ²⁰ for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.