LCS talk 3

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. INTRODUCTION

1. In the last talk, we saw that Jesus is Lord. Now Jesus has gone back to heaven, but he has sent us the Spirit to be with us.

*The Spirit's importance was stressed by Jesus. Jn 16:7.

JOHN 16:7

But I am telling you the truth; it is better for you that I go away, because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But I go away, then I will sent him to you.

2. Our topic, life in the Holy Spirit, is a very important topic, because it is this kind of life that God wants for us.

a) This life in the Spirit was normal for the early Christians. They truly experienced the Holy Spirit at work.

* In the book of Acts, we see the Holy Spirit acting among them, guiding them, speaking to them, giving them gifts.

b) We need to know the Holy Spirit not just as a doctrine, but as a Person Who truly affects our lives.

* But while we know the Father and the Son, many do not know the role of the Holy Spirit.

3. Much of Christianity today looks weak, lacking in power and effectiveness.
   a) But Christians have not always been so lifeless. The early Christian movement was dynamic, strong, attractive.
      * From a small sect, it conquered the Roman empire.
   b) That same power is available to us today. That is the power of the Holy Spirit.

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a) We cannot do it on our own steam. It is the Holy Spirit Who enables us to experience God, a living relationship with Him, and His action in our lives.
b) With the Holy Spirit, we gain:
   * Union with God. Eph 2:18. A new relationship with God as Father that is deep and personal. **We meet Christ**.
   * A new nature. 2 Cor 5:17. We now have spiritual power for living the Christian life. **We live Christ.**
   * Power to serve as Jesus' witnesses. Acts 1:8. **We share Christ.**

EPHESIANS 2:18

It is through Christ that all of us, Jews and Gentiles, are able to come in the one Spirit into the presence of The Father.

2CORINTHIANS 5:17

Anyone who is joined to Christ is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.

ACTS 1:8

“But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

5. God wants all men to have this new life. This new life in the Holy Spirit is available to all who turn away from a life of sin and receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

B. Receiving the Holy Spirit (what does it mean?).

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1. The experience of the early disciples.
   a) Jesus promises the Holy Spirit. Lk 24:49.
   b) The disciples do as they are told. They stay in Jerusalem and wait.

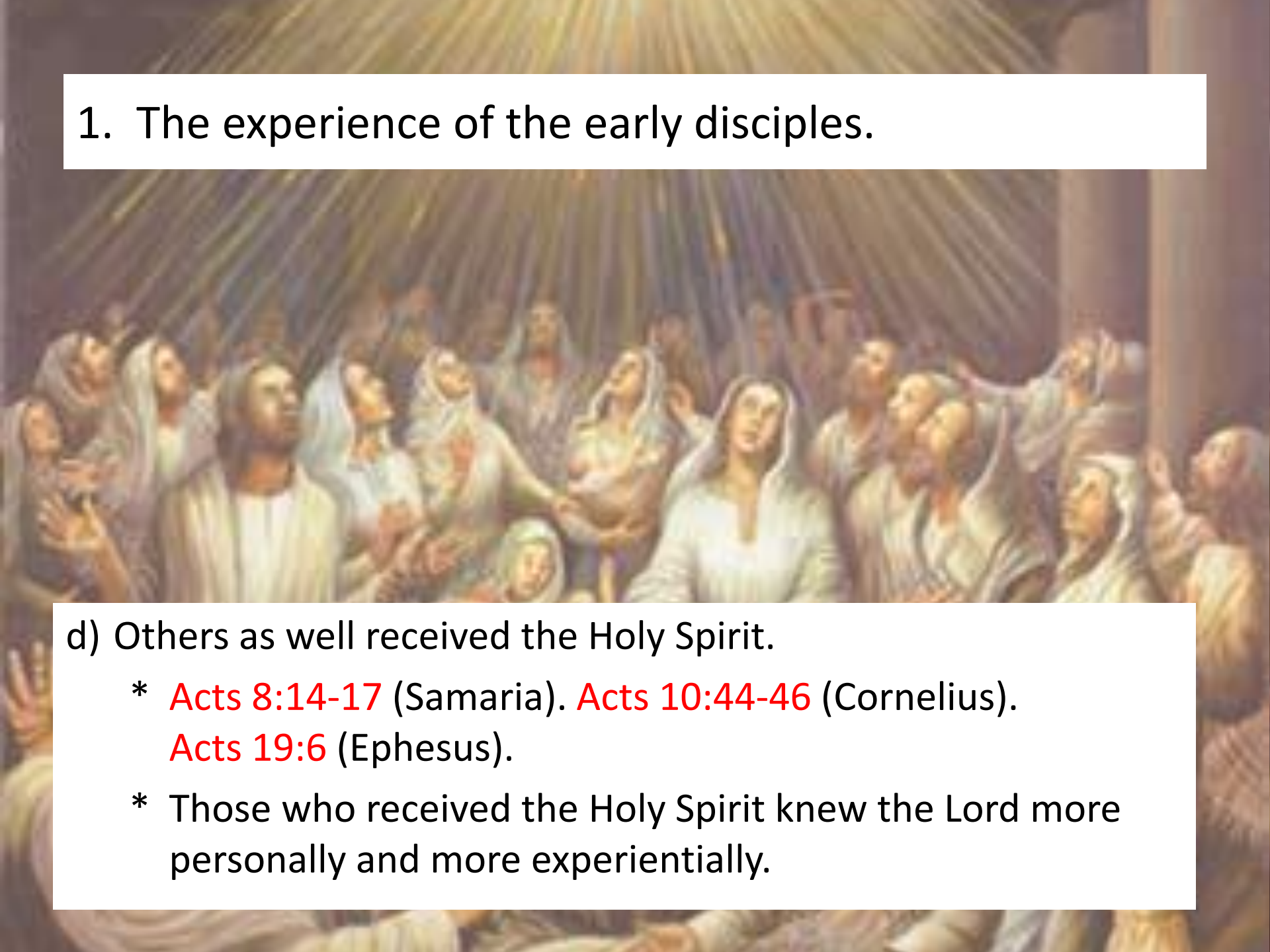
LUKE 24:49

“And I myself will send upon you what my Father has promised. But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you.”

1. The experience of the early disciples.

c) The day of Pentecost (a Jewish holiday). Acts 2.

* V.1-4. An exciting event. Noise like a strong wind, fire, speaking in tongues.
* V.5-13. It created a big stir.
* V.14-21. Peter explained they were not drunk but that the Old Testament prophecies (Joel) were coming true.
* V.22-36. Peter proclaims the gospel.
* V.37-39. Peter tells them the response needed.
* V.40-41. The disciples were transformed from frightened men into bold, powerful apostles. 3,000 are converted!
* V.42-47. The Holy Spirit created bonds of love and unity among the new C hristians. The Church was born.



1. The experience of the early disciples.

d) Others as well received the Holy Spirit.

* Acts 8:14-17 (Samaria). Acts 10:44-46 (Cornelius). Acts 19:6 (Ephesus).
* Those who received the Holy Spirit knew the Lord more personally and more experientially.

ACT 8: 14-17

The apostle in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had received the word of God, so they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for the believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit have not yet come down on any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 10:44-46

While Peter was still speaking, Holy Spirit came down on all those who are listening to his message. The Jewish believers who had come from Joppa with Peter were amazed that God had poured out his gift of the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles also. For they heard them speaking in strange tongues and praising God’s greatness.

ACTS 19: 6

Paul placed his hands on them, and the Holy Spirit came upon them; they spoke in strange tongues and also proclaimed God's message.

B. Receiving the Holy Spirit (what does it mean?).

2. What does receiving the Holy Spirit (or being baptized in the Spirit) mean for us today?

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a) We can experience the same power and gift of the Spirit that the early Christians did.

* Same relationship with Jesus.
* Same transforming power.
* Same deep worship.
* Same power for speaking the gospel.

2. What does receiving the Holy Spirit (or being baptized in the Spirit) mean for us today?

b) We can receive the same spiritual gifts. 1 Cor 12:1,4-11.

* Expound briefly on each gift.

1CORINTHIANS 12:1, 4-11

V: 1 Now, concerning what you wrote about the gifts from the Holy Spirit. I want you to know the truth about them, my friends.

V: 4-11 There are different kinds of Spiritual gifts, but the same spirit give them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God give ability to all for their particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all. The Spirit give one person a message full of wisdom, while to another person the same spirit gives a message full of knowledge. One and the same Spirit gives faith to one person, while the other person the power to heal. The Spirit gives one person the power to works miracles; to another, the gift of speaking God's message; and to yet another, the ability to tell the difference between that gift come from the Spirit and those that do not. To one person he gives the ability to speak in strange tongues, and to another he gives the ability to explain what is said. But it is one and the same Spirit who does all this; as he wishes, he gives a different gift to each person.

2. What does receiving the Holy Spirit (or being baptized in the Spirit) mean for us today?

c) A word on the gift of tongues.

* Tongues is a common experience with the baptism in the Spirit.just like in Acts.
* It is a gift from God. Thus it is important.
* Unlike the other spiritual gifts, tongues is a gift that is immediately manifest.
* Tongues can have great consequences on one's spiritual life, especially prayer and worship. 1 Cor 14:2,14.
* It is an important first step, and is often the gateway to a fuller life in the Spirit.

1CORINTHIANS 14:2,14

V:2 Those who speak in strange tongues do not speak to others but to God, because no one understands them. They are speaking in secret truths by the power of the Holy Spirit.

V:14 For if I pray in this way, my spirit prayed indeed, but my mind has no part in it.

B. Receiving the Holy Spirit (what does it mean?).

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a) God has promised us the Holy Spirit. Lk 11:9-13.

b) So we simply take God up on His promise. We ask our Father to give us the Holy Spirit.

* We can be sure we will receive the Spirit because God said so. We just need to ask in faith.

LUKE 11 : 9 – 13

And so I say to you . "Ask and it will be given to you, seek and you will find, knock and will be opened to you. For the one who ask receives and the one who searches finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Many of you are father, if your son asks, for a fish, will you give him a snake instead ? And if your son asks for an egg will you give him a scorpion? Even you evil people know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in Heaven give Holy Spirit to those who ask HIM!

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4. What being baptized in the Spirit means for us.

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a) For Catholics, this will not be the initial reception of the Holy Spirit. We already received the Spirit with the sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

* However, many baptized and confirmed Catholics do not live a vibrant life in Christ. They have not allowed the Spirit to work in and through them.
* So we renew our baptismal commitment, accept Jesus as Savior and Lord, and ask for a renewed infilling of the Holy Spirit.
* With the prayer for baptism in the Spirit, we will experience a fuller release of the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

4. What being baptized in the Spirit means for us.

b) Give a brief personal testimony.

* Knowing God more personally.
* Praying in a new way (more God-centered, more of thanksgiving and praise rather than petition, more of listening).
* The Bible comes to life.
* Better relationships (with spouse, children, others).
* A new joy despite problems.
* Much more: peace, answered prayers, guidance, etc.

C. Conclusion.

1. Many Catholics do not know the Holy Spirit, or the Spirit's importance for our lives. To truly know Christ, we must know the Holy Spirit, and receive the Holy Spirit in our lives.
2. God offers each of you new life. This new life in the Spirit is the normal Christian life. God desires it for all. Let us desire it as well.

Group discussion

Share about your experience of God's Spirit in your life.