

Two Resurrection Day Gifts

International Bible Lesson

John 20:19-23

Sunday, March 22, 2015

L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

“Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost” (John 20:21-22—KJV).

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit’” (John 20:21-22—NRSV).

Before Jesus died on the cross, He promised His disciples that He would not leave them orphaned. On Easter Sunday evening, Jesus appeared to His disciples as they hid behind locked doors afraid they might be arrested and crucified too. Jesus showed them His side and His hands and then gave them two gifts. First, Jesus gave them peace. His peace is not as the world gives, which is only a temporary pause in hostilities. Jesus gives peace that can quiet a violent storm or calm a trembling heart. Second, in answer to His prayer to His Father, Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit. As their Advocate and Comforter, the Holy Spirit would remain with them and in them forever, just as He does today in the life of everyone who trusts in Jesus. After Jesus ascended into heaven, the Holy Spirit remained with His disciples and they came to know Him better. Because they had come to know the Holy Spirit, just as they had come to know Jesus, they rejoiced even more when the Holy Spirit clothed them with power from on high and filled them on the Day of Pentecost just as Jesus promised (see Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8;). Just as the Father had sent Jesus in Holy Spirit power, Jesus sent His disciples in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim boldly the good news about Jesus and His love. Furthermore, Peter proclaimed that the Holy Spirit would abide in everyone who repented and believed in Jesus (Acts 2:38-39). – L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

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Thinking Further

1. How many disciples saw Jesus on Resurrection Sunday?
2. How did Jesus get into the locked house?
3. What did Jesus show His disciples?
4. What two blessings did Jesus give His disciples?
5. How did Jesus give His most important gift to His disciples?