



## 9.18.11/ Acts 1: 4-8

**Read Acts 1:4-8**

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. 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."

**Opening Discussion**

How many of us have ever done something wrong and then felt sorry about it? How many of us have ever been brave when we could have been afraid? How many of us need help making the right decisions? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you may have had a little help from the Holy Spirit. But who is the Holy Spirit, anyway? What does He do? We know Who God the Father is. He created the whole world, and He created us. We know Who Jesus is. For those of us who believe that He is Lord, He saved us by destroying our sin at the cross! So who is the Holy Spirit? Well, He is actually God, just like the Father and Jesus!

Some of you have heard that God is three persons in one. God is the Father, the Son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. That can seem confusing. So how can we explain this? Let's think about water. We know water can come in three forms: there is water in its liquid form, like the kind we drink, there is water in its solid form, which we call ice, and there is water as a gas which we call water vapor. (That's the steam that fogs the mirror in your bathroom when it's hot in there.) Water in three forms.

Maybe we could think of the Holy Spirit like the wind. John 3:8 says, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the [Holy] Spirit." The wind comes and goes as it pleases, but we never actually see the wind itself. We see its affects when the branches sway and the leaves blow. The Holy Spirit is kind of like the wind. You can't see Him, but you do see His affects in people's lives.

God is three persons in one. We explain that by thinking of the three forms of water. We explain the Holy Spirit as one of these forms and also like the wind. But, He is NOT like water or the wind in any other way. He is a mystery. He is not like anything we know. We can't draw Him, explain Him, or compare Him. But we can trust Him and we can know that He is good.

**Questions**

1. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19:

"Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God?"

This verse says that our body is God's temple, or His home. If we have asked Jesus to forgive us of our sins, and we turn from those sins to follow God, then we have the Holy Spirit living with us! God uses the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work through us. If our body is the Spirit's home, then what kind of home do you think it should be? *A home that is taken care of. A healthy home.* What are some of the choices we can make to make sure we are taking care of the Holy Spirit's temple? *For our bodies, we can eat healthy foods, exercise and get lots of rest – we can use our bodies to do GOOD things for others. For our minds, we can be careful of the kind of TV we watch and music we listen to – we can ask our moms and dads for help in choosing good things to watch and listen to – it's also good for our minds to study the Bible! For our hearts, we can be thankful, we can forgive others and ask for forgiveness. (Examples can go on and on!)*



2. In verse 8 of today's verse, Jesus says that we "will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon [us], and [we] will be [His] witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." To be a witness means to point others to Jesus and share what God has done in your life. But our actions and our stories are not what draw others to follow Christ, but rather the power of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, drawing people to Himself. Sometimes we get scared to share our faith with others because we're scared of what they'll think of us or we don't know what to say. Knowing what we learned from verse 8, how can we keep from being scared in those situations? *When the Holy Spirit lives inside of us, we have access to HIS power. Even if we fumble over our words, or we feel too shy to have a conversation with someone about God, we can pray that the Holy Spirit will energize us and give us the right words to say.*

### Reflection/Prayer

As a group, or individually, thank God for sending His Holy Spirit to dwell in us. Thank Him for empowering us to share the Good News that Jesus came to destroy our sin and restore relationship with God the Father. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be active in your life and that you would not get in the way of the things God wants you to do for His glory.

Sometimes the Holy Spirit can be a hard topic to understand. Be sure to ask your parents or another adult that you trust, any questions you have. If you have questions about what it means to trust in Jesus, make sure to ask them that too!