

THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS

Acts 2:1-4

Introduction: As we grow older, we change in appearance, behavior and mannerisms. Sometimes we copy behaviors from people we have admired, sometimes we change because we don't want to be like we started out. People who live in one part of the country speak differently from someone from another part of the country. Some people are born shy, some seem to be born talking and have never hushed since being born. When entering the armed forces there is a basic training required for all personnel which is intended to take away some behaviors and instill others, transforming an ordinary, everyday person into a well trained, sharp, skilled and loyal military person. When a person becomes a believer in Jesus Christ, a transformation takes place and continues throughout that person's earthly life. The Holy Spirit indwells that believer and gradually transforms him/her into what God has in mind.

I. THE DISCIPLES OF JESUS NEEDED SOME HELP AFTER JESUS ASCENDED

1. In the upper room during the last time with His disciples, Jesus talked about His leaving them.
2. In the garden outside where Jesus was being "tried" Peter denied knowing Jesus three times.
3. When Mary encountered Jesus at the tomb upon His resurrection and hurried to tell the disciples, nobody believed her.
4. The disciples were anything but loyal, soldiers of Jesus.
5. Who would expect very much, if anything from men such as these? Cowards, liars, betrayers.

II. THE DISCIPLES WERE DRASTICALLY TRANSFORMED

1. Judas deceived Jesus, Peter denied Jesus, Thomas doubted Jesus, John was called the "dreamer," they argued among themselves, competed in trying to be closest to Jesus, all were cowards.
2. They didn't realize just how much they really lacked in being what Jesus wanted them to be and the cross proved and showed just what kind of men they really were.
3. However, when the Holy Spirit came upon them in that upper room, they were all transformed.
 - Their past frailties were transformed into supernatural gifts and abilities.
 - *Acts 2:1-4* - the Holy Spirit came and gave them abilities to speak.
 - *Acts 2:6-11* - their actions in public impressed those who saw and heard them.
 - *Acts 3:1-8* - they had the ability to heal the sick.
 - *Acts 3:11-12* - they gave the Holy Spirit the honor and recognition for what they did.
 - Their fright and reluctance to speak was transformed into bold confidence.
 - Before they hid in fear of the soldiers and the religious leaders.
 - *Acts 2:40* - they now boldly preached in the open streets.
 - *Acts 4:13* - they obviously had changed drastically.

- Their former fears and intimidations had been transformed into a sense of invincibility.
 - They even ran to people and urged strangers to repent and stood face to face with the very same accusers of Jesus.
 - So, where did such boldness, change come from?
 - The Holy Spirit had indwelt and changed them.
- Their past feelings of being abandoned by Jesus were transformed into joyful perseverance.
 - *Acts 5:27-32* - They bravely faced any and all accusers.
 - *Acts 5:33-40* - The officials were stunned and amazed at the changed behavior.
 - *Acts 5:41-42* - The disciples even rejoiced when they were publicly whipped.
- The wimps had become Warriors! How?
 - They had been radically transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.

III. WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THESE ONCE COWARDS?

1. Had they taken on an attitude of "let's think positive from now on?"
2. Had the environment, things gotten better since Jesus was gone?
3. Perhaps they had attended a seminar on "12 Steps to a Successful Life."
4. NO! There had been no special courses, no cheer leaders, no change in the environment, IT WAS THE SPIRIT OF GOD'S PRESENCE.
 - *John 14:12; 16-18; 26*
 - *Acts 1:8*
5. Jesus had kept His Word! His disciples were never the same nor is any believer in the Lord Jesus.

CONCLUSION:

1. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, the very same Holy Spirit that did so much through the disciples is also within you. Are you allowing the Holy Spirit to transform you life?
2. Yes or No? Either the Holy Spirit lives within you because you are a believer or the Holy Spirit does not because you are NOT a believer.
 - If a believer, are you doing "your own thing" or are you allowing the Holy Spirit to "do His thing?"
3. The Holy Spirit is within the believer to transform his/her life. Remember what happened to the disciples, the dramatic, transformation in their lives and all that they did for the Lord. God wants to do the same thing with YOU.
4. The Holy Spirit will supply everything that is needed for you to do what God wants, you just supply a place for Him to live and a voice, arms and legs for Him to work through.