

It's Better If I Leave
Selected Passages
Bethany Assembly of God
11/22/2020

- Have you ever wished that you could really see Jesus? Why? What difference do you suppose that would make in your life?
- Read John 16:7. What do you think about Jesus' words "It is to your advantage that I go away..."? How could it be better for Jesus to leave?
- Read Luke 22:31-35 and Luke 22:54-71. Compare these verses to Acts 2:22-36. What changed in Peter? Why?

You should pursue the presence of the Holy Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit transforms your character.

- The Holy Spirit is working to making you like Jesus in a lifelong process called, "Sanctification." What has your experience of sanctification been like? Can you give an example or two?
- Read Galatians 5:25. While we know that the Holy Spirit applies the work of the cross and resurrection in our lives, we must still cooperate with His work; we must "walk in the Spirit." What does it mean to "walk in the Spirit?"
- Since the Holy Spirit is making you more like Jesus, one way to think about walking in the Spirit is to act, react, and think in ways consistent with the belief, "Jesus is with me." How could believing that change your life?

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, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19–20

2. The Holy Spirit provides courage.

- Do you see life as a battle? Why or why not? If you do, what is this battle about?
- Read Luke 22:3-4, Ephesians 2:1-2, and Ephesians 6:12. What do these passages tell you

about the battle of life?

Imagine being in Germany during the Nazi regime and opposing Hitler from within. Imagine being in an Islamic nation where it is illegal to be a Christian but doing whatever you can to tell others about Jesus. Imagine being a member of an underground church in China. Those all sound terrifying, don't they? And we may pause and ask ourselves in theory how we would respond; what would we do? But brothers and sisters, it is not theory; this is our reality too, and if we do not see it, it is not because it's not there but because we are fooled by the disguise of Satan, who comes dressed as an angel of light. We are in this battle. Jesus has called us to stand as witnesses to Him in the midst of a culture that is actively denying His relevance and existence, in which He is relegated to the realms of history and comedy.

- Read 1 John 4:4 and Acts 1:8. How does God enable us to engage successfully in the battle for souls as witnesses for Jesus?
- In what arenas has God placed you to be a witness for Him? What arenas have you been ignoring? Where do you need to engage in being a witness for Jesus?
- What will enable you to be a witness? (Read Acts 1:8 again if you need a hint.) What should you do to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Conclusion

God's Spirit makes us indomitable by transforming our character to be like Christ and by providing us the courage of Christ. In order to be effective as witnesses and in the battles we fight for Jesus in our world, we need to pursue the presence of the Holy Spirit. This means being responsive and obedient to Him as He leads. It also means waiting on Him to fill us with the power we need to be witnesses. Take a moment and pray (if you're in a group, pray for one another). Ask the Jesus to help you be attentive to His voice through the Holy Spirit. Then, spend a few moments waiting on the Holy Spirit and asking God to fill you and those around you with the Holy Spirit so you can engage the fight!