

GOD REVEALED IN BIBLICAL PROGRESSION

STUDY & REFLECTION

Let me restate a principle that was shared in an earlier devotion. *Genuine knowledge of God, flows to us in this order in general. From the Father, to the Son, to the Holy Spirit!*

This order is not always exact but it is consistent and instructive. This pattern unfolds through the unveiling of the Word of God. Each unveiling is intended to be enlightening and enriching.

The Old Testament record in large part reveals to us His operation as God the Father. The patriarchs, the matriarchs, the prophets of the Bible tell us about and reveal Him to us.

The gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John mainly reveal God as the SON, each from different perspectives.

Then from Acts through Jude God is revealed and operates in the Holy Spirit.

We must note, throughout all time and through each unfolding of scripture, **GOD IS ALWAYS THERE, IN HIS TOTALITY, FULLY PRESENT!**

Yet in each section His relationship to us and His operation with us has a different emphasis. Each is intended to give us more and deeper insights and truths about this Great God we are called to know and serve.

FATHER: In Creation **SON:** In Redemption **HOLY SPIRIT:** Indwelling the life of the Christian

ACTION ITEMS

Consider how God has decided to reveal Himself to us. His progressive, Divine Plan for us is a demonstration of His love and care for us.

As His revelation is different, but progressive in each section of the Bible, give thought and reflection how each manner of revelation has impacted and enriched your walk.

INVOLVING OTHERS

Discuss and share with your small group how the Bible, in each distinct section has impacted and enriched your experience with God.

GOD'S NEXT STEP: JESUS MUST LEAVE US TO "GO TO THE FATHER!"

STUDY &
REFLECTION

What a powerful, enlightening, passage of scripture. Note, Jesus knows that His ministry on earth is ending. In this chapter, He is enjoying one last meal, one last gathering with those He loves. He has told them of his impending betrayal, imprisonment, and death, and they are deeply troubled. In fact, they are terrified. They do not want to be left alone. This is the moment Jesus unveils to them His identity as "the Way, the Truth, and the Life!" It is in this context that He gives them revelation regarding Himself and 'The Father.' Note verses 7-12:

If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

The disciples had seen that Jesus was no ordinary man. How many times they had been eye witnesses of God in Action, through Jesus. They knew that as long as Jesus was with them, nothing was impossible. But now Jesus shares with them this disturbing next step in God's Plan. He must 'go to the Father,' so that they can receive and be empowered to do what He did and **'greater works!'**

ACTION
ITEMS

The disciples couldn't believe it and didn't want to hear it. Jesus was leaving them? **NO, NO WAY!** They knew that He was the promised Messiah. They saw their deliverance in this wonderful relationship of Jesus living and being with them.

Put yourself in the place of the disciples. How do you think you would have handled what you were being taught. Can we learn that God's ways are not ours? Can we embrace the fact that He has something better for us?

INVOLVING
OTHERS

We often read scripture and gain understanding because we enjoy the privilege of knowing what is coming next. The disciples had no such luxury.

Explore with your small group how difficult it is to receive the better because we so desperately hold on to what is.

GOD'S NEXT STEP:

JESUS ANNOUNCES THE INDWELLING SPIRIT!

**STUDY &
REFLECTION**

What could be greater than a day to day, physical relationship with Jesus? What could be more powerful and more empowering than to see Him operate every day, in the Spirit of God, doing all kinds of miracles with signs and wonders?

Jesus reveals to them a promised relationship for them that superseded what they already had: John 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

The Holy Spirit is not the promise of 'another God.' The Holy Spirit is the promise of a different relationship with God. Note the words of Jesus. I am leaving in order to send you the Comforter! The word means one who will be your advocate. He who will be your intercessor. His relationship shall be different. They enjoyed the blessing of Jesus being 'with' them. This Comforter would dwell 'IN THEM.'

To further cement the power and blessing of this relationship, the Lord tells them, "I will not leave you comfortless, **I WILL COME TO YOU!**"

**ACTION
ITEMS**

Can you believe it?

The Great God. The Holy One. The Creator of the Universe, **wants to dwell in us!!**

Please carve out some focused time to be alone with God in prayer and reflection. Spend this time thanking and praising Him for such grace as the relationship of intimacy that you enjoy with Him.

**INVOLVING
OTHERS**

Share with your small group your time of focused prayer and reflection.

Listen and be encouraged as they share their stories with you.

THE 'PROMISE OF THE FATHER' FULFILLED

STUDY &
REFLECTION

Our scriptural passages are both authored by Luke, and record the teachings and instructions of Jesus, post-resurrection. Our previous study was from John 14, the setting was the Last Supper and the first Communion.

Here in Luke He has been betrayed, scourged, crucified, died, and Risen. He now appears to them and “opens up their understanding of the Old Testament scriptures concerning Him (v45).

In v 49 He gives them “*the promise of my Father.*” This is affirmed in Luke’s writing in Acts 1:4-5. Luke reaffirms this as the “*promise of the Father.*”

We see here the progressive plan of God regarding our salvation being unfolded and revealed. In the passage in Luke, Jesus is speaking to them and leads them out to the city of Bethany. In Acts they were all gathered together in Jerusalem, just as the Lord had commanded them. They were instructed to wait there, (and they obeyed) until they were “**endued with Power from on high.**”

We will see shortly, in Acts chapter 2 that the promise of the Father was fulfilled. In both passages in Luke and Acts, Luke reminds us that this fulfillment of the promise was something God had promised in the Old Testament from the Law of Moses, the psalms, and the prophets.....concerning Jesus.

ACTION
ITEMS

As we study and review the scriptures, we see that God has a Master Plan, and that plan is for our benefit. He can be trusted to fulfill every promise He has made.

We also see how the disciples responded to the Lord’s teachings with Unity, Faith, and Obedience.

Give some thought to and evaluate in your own life has this been your experience?

INVOLVING
OTHERS

The Promise of the Father is an ongoing **relationship** that we must embrace to a fuller extent. Discuss as a congregation where we stand in this relationship and what we can do to experience a fuller manifestation of the Promise.

JESUS TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT:
TAUGHT...RECEIVED?

STUDY &
REFLECTION

One of the issues that is controversial to some is when did the Lord send the Holy Spirit upon the disciples. As we study the Holy Spirit, I pray this will be clear to us.

The Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father, the Indwelling of the Spirit, was accomplished on the Day of Pentecost. This is the “birth of the church.”

The passage in John 7 is instructive. Jesus is continually unveiling and revealing to His the plan of salvation and redemption. Here He ‘announces’ the Holy Spirit. Yet it is clear that it was announced but not given, *because Christ had not yet been glorified.*

The passage in John 20:22, which occurred after Christ’s resurrection can be confusing. Here Jesus commands them to “Receive the Holy Spirit,” and He ‘breaths on them.’

But He then commands them to “Go to Jerusalem, and wait until you be endued with ‘power from on high.’

The narrative in Acts 2, given to us by Luke is clear and unmistakable. The astounding, powerful, explosive Spirit descends from heaven, and Baptizes and Fills every one of them! **They were ALL FILLED with the Holy Spirit.** They were ALL FILLED with power from on high. This is the birth of the church. This begins the Ministry of the Indwelling, Permanent Spirit in the Life of the Saints.

ACTION
ITEMS

The Promises of God must be received and embraced in Faith.

The promise has been fulfilled. The Holy Spirit is available to all. If you are not sure of your experience, no problem. Call the church and be affirmed.

If you are sure REJOICE!

INVOLVING
OTHERS

Share with others **a testimony of how the Holy Spirit has changed your life.**

Please take the time to review our week's scriptures, and reflect what you have *sensed, learned, and experienced* this week in regards to the progressive, Biblical record of the promise and manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

As we do this together, I am confident that we will be ready to dig deeper than ever before and experience the Lord in a greater way.

SHALOM!