

REAL TALK FROM THE WORD

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Apostles' Creed – Week 7

I believe in

God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

*I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead and on the third day he rose again;*

**he ascended into heaven, and he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

Ac 1:1-11 (NASB)

The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of 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 were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.” And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

The Holy Spirit is now the presence of Christ everywhere, available to all at any given moment.

- When Jesus ascended to heaven, He moved from a physical place to a celestial place – meaning we can connect with Him anywhere and just in a particular place.
- (From Bible Study) In these 11 verses, Jesus tells the apostles that they will receive the Holy Spirit TWICE...
- **Ep 1:13 (MSG)** – “It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit.”

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Now that the Holy Spirit has come in full, humans are turned into proper vessels for universal renewal.

Ga 5:22-23 (MSG) – “But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard—things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. Legalism is helpless in bringing this about; it only gets in the way.”

Ac 2:32-38 (NASB) – “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”’” “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

As gloriously expressed by this scripture passage and this section of the creed, the Ascension confirms that Jesus is no longer among the dead and never will be again. His power has proven to be greater than anything in this world - even death. As Peter preached the first Christian sermon, he concluded with the fact that Jesus rose from the dead, ascended to heaven, and sent his Holy Spirit.

- It's not that we don't enter difficulty but in that difficulty Christ is there, that His presence and power are there to transform and turn us and change us from one degree of glory to the next.

Holy discontentment is “If Christ is an inexhaustible well, then I want more.”

- SYMMETRY (Balance): Some of us need the type of holy discontentment that would make us more serious about sin and hungrier for righteousness.
- CLARITY: The reason the Ascension is so beautiful is with clarity now, you can rest in this: He knows. You have not been abandoned.
- COMMUNITY: We are not yet what we will be
- COUNSEL: I will not give in to the paralysis of guilt and shame when I fall short of what I know God has called me to.