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Monday

<u>John 14:16</u> "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever." <u>Col. 1:27</u> ...which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.""

The end of Jesus' life brought an unparallel crisis to His disciples. They trusted and relied upon Him. They followed Him. He was Messiah, yet He would die. He was leaving them; their world was crashing around them. In that moment, Jesus revealed God's answer to their (and our) crisis. Because Jesus was to ascend to the Father again, the Father would send to every believer the indwelling Holy Spirit. No longer would the presence of Jesus be limited by geography or time. In the person of the Holy Spirit, Jesus would never leave them. By His Spirit, Jesus dwells within every believer today. The Spirit is "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

Tuesday

John 14:17 The Spirit of truth, you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.

In the Old Testament, the Spirit of God came upon individuals for a limited time with power and direction. *After Easter*, the Holy Spirit comes to every believer to indwell him or her with the power and presence of God. Because of this amazing promise of God, every believer may have the witness of God's Spirit assuring him or her of salvation, the direction of God's Spirit leading to truth and understanding, and the power of God's Spirit enabling life changing adventure in the plan and purpose of God. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in you. You can depend upon His leading and direction. You can count upon His presence. He is truth.

Wednesday

Acts 8:18 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.

It cannot be overstated that the Holy Spirit is the presence of our *LORD* within us. We are to allow Him to fill and control us. We are not to see Him as the magical fulfiller of our wishes. He is no less God, than the Father or the Son. We do not command Him; we are to submit to Him and His leadership. Some people seem to think that the Holy Spirit is their servant, His power a talisman or charm to be bartered or traded. In arrogance they seem to demand of Him or command Him. They do not realize the danger of their attitude. Fear the Lord and obey Him: this is required of you toward God the Spirit, just as toward God the Son.

Thursday

Acts 1:8 You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses

The promise of abundant life (John 10:10) is conditional upon your walking in the will and plan of God. God does not say, "Profess me and win the lottery." But, "Take up your cross, and follow me!" He does not say, "Speak my name and get what you want." But, "Whoever wishes to save his life must lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will gain it." Abundant life is found in the surrender of your life to the guidance of the Spirit and the Lordship of Jesus. Abundance comes as you receive the power of the Holy Spirit with a determination to His mission.

Friday

<u>John 16:13</u> "But the Spirit of truth will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak.

The Spirit will guide into truth, but do not think that every inward impression you have is of the Spirit. Some do so and discredit the Spirit with all kinds of erroneous and selfish thinking. The Spirit's guidance will work with and through the Word of God to lead you. He will help you understand the Word and apply it to your life. He will bring the Word to mind and make clear to you its meaning. He will elevate Jesus in and through your life. The Spirit and Word work in harmony.