

# Everything Changes When He Moves In

Series: Presence

John 20:19-22 (NLT) That Sunday evening the disciples were meeting behind locked doors because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly, Jesus was standing there among them! "Peace be with you," he said. <sup>20</sup> As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! <sup>21</sup> Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**Introduction:** Have you ever been in a place where fear caused you to shut everything down? Where you closed the doors, avoided people, and just tried to stay safe?

That's exactly where the disciples were after Jesus died. They were gathered behind locked doors, afraid for their lives.

And then suddenly, Jesus shows up. Not to rebuke them. Not to shame them. But to bring peace and to breathe His Spirit upon them.

The resurrection wasn't just about Jesus coming back to life, it was about Him stepping into their fear and filling their lives with His Spirit.

From the moment the Holy Spirit took residence in them, everything changed. Fearful, weak, and incapable men and women were transformed into people who lived like Jesus and carried His message to the ends of the world with boldness and courage.

And the same is true for us today.

Christianity was never meant to be lived at a distance from God; it was meant to be lived in daily relationship with the Holy Spirit.

It's not just believing in Him but walking with Him. Not just knowing about Him but experiencing His presence.

The Holy Spirit is not a doctrinal topic to be understood; He is the presence of God with us, in us, and working through us.

John 14:16-17 (NLT) He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you.

As Christ followers, we are not on this journey alone. When the Spirit of God takes residence in us, everything begins to change.

Just as He did for the disciples in that upper room, He starts His work at the deepest level, not on the outside, but on the inside, transforming our hearts.

## 1. He transforms our hearts

John 3:6 (NLT) Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives birth to spiritual life.

Titus 3:5 (NLT) He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins, giving us a new birth and new life through the Holy Spirit.

So many people today feel like they'll never qualify to be a Christian. They think they must fix themselves or clean up their lives first. But the truth is, you can't change yourself on your own. Real transformation isn't behavior modification; it's spiritual rebirth.

It only happens when we surrender our lives to Christ and allow Him to do the work within us by His Spirit.

## **2. He connects us to the body of Christ**

1 Corinthians 12:13 (AMP) For by [means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit.

You don't have to do life alone. The Holy Spirit connect us to a community of believers who are also in process of being changed. Some may be further along than us in spiritual maturity, while others are just beginning, but we are all moving in the same direction: becoming more like Jesus and spreading His message.

So, allow yourself to be known. Get connected to a small group. Join a volunteer team. Growth happens in connection, not isolation.

## **3. He develops us to be more like Jesus**

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NLT) So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord, who is the Spirit, makes us more and more like him as we are changed into his glorious image.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control.

Spiritual growth is a process, learn to respond and cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Yield your attitude, reactions and decisions to Him so that he can form Christ's character in you.

## **4. He opens our eyes to understand scripture and apply it to our lives.**

John 16:13 (NLT) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

1 Corinthians 2:12 (NLT) And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

When you read the Bible, invite the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you're reading. Don't treat your time in the Word like a task to check off. Come with expectation and trust Him to show you not only what it means, but how to live it out in your daily life.

## **5. He distributes gifts to us so we can serve the body and bring glory to Jesus.**

1 Corinthians 12:11 (NLT) It is the one and only Spirit who distributes all these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT) God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Don't sit on the sidelines. God has gifted you for a purpose. Discover what he has placed in you and start using it to serve others. The church needs what God has deposited in you.

## **6. He enriches our prayer life**

Romans 8:26-27 (NLT) And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. <sup>27</sup> And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.

When you get stuck and don't know what to pray, don't stop praying. Lean on the Holy Spirit. Engage in worship, start praying the scriptures, pray in your spiritual language and make room for deeper more honest and Spirit-led communication with God.

Ephesians 5:18-20 (NLT) Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,<sup>19</sup> singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## **7. He empowers us to be a witness**

Acts 1:8 (NLT) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere, in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Our mission field is where we live. There are people you know that I may never reach, and people I know that you may never encounter. You may not reach the whole world, but you can reach your world, your sphere of influence. And God cares deeply about every person in it.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you sensitivity to the people around you, those He is already working in. Then ask Him for boldness to share Christ through your words, your actions, and your story.

When we surrender our lives to Christ as Savior and Lord, the Holy spirit takes residence in our hearts, bringing with Him an entirely new life of love, relationship and service to the Lord.

Because He rose, we are not alone, we are not powerless, and without purpose, we are filled with His presence and sent with His power.

When the Spirit of God takes residence in us, everything begins to change.