

WHEN GOD SAYS “STAY”

ACTS 1:1-8 | ERIC SIMPSON | MAY 17, 2020

The Paschal Mystery:

- Crucifixion – name our deaths
- Resurrection – claim our births
- The 40 days – grieve what you have lost and adjust to the new reality
- Ascension – let go of the old, refuse to cling to what was, let it ascend
- Pentecost – accept the new spirit for this new life that you are in fact living

Acts 1:1-4

¹ In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach ² until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. ³ After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. ⁴ On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem...

Acts 1:4-5

... “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵ For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

- baptizo (Greek) = baptism = to immerse, submerge, overwhelm

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

- Right message – the Spirit’s presence & power = hollow representation of Jesus’ mission & ministry

You know you’ve been plunged into the Presence & personhood of the Holy Spirit when...

1. **Boldness & brokenness in your witness**
2. **Hunger for God**

Hunger is a sign of life. Dead things are not hungry.

Psalm 34:8 – Taste and see that the Lord is good.

“The moment the Spirit has quickened us to life in regeneration our whole being senses its kinship to God and leaps up in joyous recognition. That is the heavenly birth without which we cannot see the kingdom of God. It is, however, not an end but an inception, for now begins the glorious pursuit, the heart’s happy exploration of the infinite riches of the Godhead. – A.W. Tozer

3. **Christlikeness in your character – more of Jesus in more of you**

“The thoughts that no longer occur to you—that’s one way to measure your spiritual growth.” – Dallas Willard

“[The one who is all about discipline, control and accountability] He is lean and sharp and focused. He gets more done, has fewer mess-ups, can quote, with flawless accuracy, more Scripture. He just lacks joy. His faith and virtue sour with each passing year. He struggles with judging others and hating himself, the twin offspring of self-striving. He nurses, I suspect, bitterness toward God. His children are mostly silent, but have watchful, distrustful eyes.

[The one who seeks the Spirit] He garbles Scripture and can never remember what passage comes from where. He bumbles and ambles at times. He is earthy in a way some people find shocking. He could lose a few pounds, and sometimes forgets, midsentence, what he is talking about. But he abounds with joy. He gets sweeter by the day. He is one of the few people I know who truly loves sinners and hates sin, and people instantly sense it, sense they are safe with him. His love for God is as inviting as a blue lagoon and contagious as laughter. He is his children’s hero.” – Mark Buchanan