

## BIG QUESTION UNDER INVESTIGATION

*We're in... Unit 10: The Holy Spirit, the Indwelling*

**Unit 10 Big Question and Answer:**  
**What Does the Holy Spirit Do In God's People?**  
**He Changes Their Hearts to Be Like Jesus!**

PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 3,4

**Unit 10 Bible Verse: Ezekiel 36:26, NIV 1984**

"I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you."  
PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 5

## BIBLE TRUTH

*We're learning... Bible Truth 1:*  
**The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People**

God is one God, but three persons: God the Father, Jesus, the Son of God, and God, the Holy Spirit. Together they have always existed, delighting in wonderful fellowship together and working out the perfect plans of God. This is a wonderful truth, even though it is very hard to understand.

After Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead, He spent time with His disciples and taught them many things. He told them He would be going back to reign in heaven, but He promised His disciples that He would not leave God's people all alone. He would send the Holy Spirit to live in their hearts and make them new. The Holy Spirit would help them know God and His Word. He would comfort them. He would change their hearts so that they would love and serve God more and more.

God sent His Holy Spirit to live inside of those first believers, as Jesus said He would. He comforted and helped them to live as God wanted them to live.

And God continues to give His Holy Spirit to His people--all those who turn away from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior. He gives them each a new heart, filled with His Holy Spirit. He comforts them and helps them live for God, too. God can do this in our hearts, too!

## BIBLE VERSE

*How do I know this is true? The Bible tells me so!*

**Bible Truth 1 Bible Verse: 1 Corinthians 6:19**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

## CASE STORY

Acts 2

**Our story is called:**

**The Case of the Watchful Waiters.**

**As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out:**

1. Who were the Watchful Waiters? Who were they watching and waiting for?
2. When did He come? What did He do?

This story takes place in Jerusalem, in New Testament times, not long after Jesus rose from the dead.

Have you ever had a hard time waiting for your birthday? Why is that? Maybe it's because you know someone will cook you a favorite meal and dessert. Maybe it's because of other ways you are specially treated that day. But I wonder, perhaps more than anything, if it's because of the gifts you might receive?

Maybe you've been hinting for some special gift you hope your parents will get you. Or, maybe you saw something wrapped up in a closet or accidentally overheard your parents whispering about their present to you, and you are so excited! "How many days is it TODAY until my birthday?!" you might ask over and over, waiting for the day when you finally get to open what you've been waiting for.

If this has ever been your experience, then maybe you can understand how the disciples were probably feeling, those days right after Jesus died, rose again, then went to heaven. You see, they were expecting a gift from Jesus. A really big gift; a really exciting gift. A gift so amazing that no one had ever received a gift just like it ever before. And it was so amazing that they didn't really even know exactly what it was. It was a present from that He was sending them from heaven!

What was this gift? It was the Holy Spirit, Himself!

Jesus had told them, "Don't leave Jerusalem. Wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses of my death and resurrection here in Jerusalem, in Judea and Samaria, and to all the nations, even to the ends of the earth."

The disciples didn't know exactly what that meant to receive the Holy Spirit or to be baptized with the Holy Spirit; but, Jesus had told them that the Holy Spirit would

live in them, comfort and guide them. He promised them that the Holy Spirit would give them power to do everything He wanted them to do. So whatever this gift was, it was very, very good!!!

News spread quickly about the gift that was to come. Together 120 of Jesus' followers gathered together in Jerusalem, waiting and praying, praying and waiting. For how long? No one knew, but it must be soon.

Day 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 passed-- a whole week-but still no Holy Spirit.. They kept on waiting and praying there in Jerusalem as Jesus had told them to. Some days they would go to the Temple to pray and worship God. Some days they would meet together in the Cenacle, the large upper room where the eleven disciples were staying. But still no Holy Spirit.

Was God running late in giving the Holy Spirit? Had He changed His plans? No, sir! He had a perfect plan all along. He knew exactly what day He would send the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

Day 8 passed. By Day 9, it was getting harder and harder to meet together. Hundreds of thousands of God-fearing Jews and Gentiles were pouring into the city for the annual feast of Pentecost. Pentecost was the celebration of God giving them the Ten Commandments. God's laws were such a great gift to them! They told the people how to love God and love others. It was hard for them to imagine a greater gift.

Every adult Jewish man was to go to Jerusalem for Pentecost and they obeyed. They came flooding in from all over--even many far away places like Africa, Europe and Asia--all to celebrate the great gift of God's Law. Jerusalem burst to the seams with the hundreds of thousands of visitors. So many people in such a small space!

Perhaps that is why by Day 10--the Day of Pentecost, itself--the 120 believers did not meet early that morning in the Temple to pray, but in the house called the Cenacle. Perhaps it was simply too difficult to make their way through the crowded streets and into the even more crowded Temple courts.

Whatever the reason, it was there in the Cenacle, that Pentecost morning, that the long-awaited gift of the Holy Spirit came. All of sudden, a sound like the blowing of a strong wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. The disciples saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and He

made them each able to speak in foreign languages—languages they had never learned in school or maybe ever even heard before!

Yes, the gift had come at last! The Holy Spirit had come to dwell inside of them and already was beginning to work changes in their hearts! They were all filled with joy and peace and power from on high. What an amazing gift!

But there was more to this gift that they knew. It wasn't just a gift for THEM. It was for ALL PEOPLE, as they were about to find out. The streets outside the Cenacle had been filled with the noisy bustle of thousands of Pentecost visitors, but when the mighty sound of the Spirit roared from heaven and the 120 believers burst from the house speaking in foreign languages, a curious hush silenced the crowds of people in the streets.

"What is this I hear?" they asked each other. "Do you hear those people? They are speaking OUR language!" said people from Egypt and Africa and Asia and Europe. "But look at them! They aren't from our country. They are from Galilee! How is it that they are speaking our language? What gift is this?" they asked in curiosity.

"Perhaps it's no gift at all, maybe they are drunk from too much wine," laughed one person. Others laughed with him.

Then Peter stood up with the other eleven disciples. He silenced the crowd and spoke: "These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is the Holy Spirit poured out upon His people, just as God had promised it would happen."

Then Peter shared the good news about Jesus. He told how God had sent His Son Jesus to the world to save His sinful people. How Jesus had lived a perfect life and offered up His life on the cross as the perfect payment for the sins of all who would ever turn and trust in Him.

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart: "What should we do, they asked?"

Peter gladly told them, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Many people in the crowd listened and obeyed. About 3000 of them became followers of Jesus on just that one day! They, too, received the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, promised by God.

One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten

days the disciples had waited and wondered about this wonderful gift, but now they could see what perfect timing God had in giving it to His people on the Day of Pentecost. For now those 3000 believers from all parts of the world would go home and tell others the good news of Jesus. They had come to Jerusalem to celebrate God's great gift of the Law; but they went home with a far greater gift: the gift of faith and the gift of the Holy Spirit living inside their hearts to change them and to give them power to love and live for God, more and more each day.

Many people call this special Day of Pentecost the birthday of the Church. And if you want to know what day that birthday is? It's the seventh Sunday after Easter. And what a celebration we should have on that birthday for the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit given to God's people! That God would save His sinful people--all who turn from their sins and trust in Jesus as their Savior-- and would give them the gift of a new heart, filled with the Holy Spirit!

**Our Bible Truth is:**

**The Holy Spirit Lives in God's People**

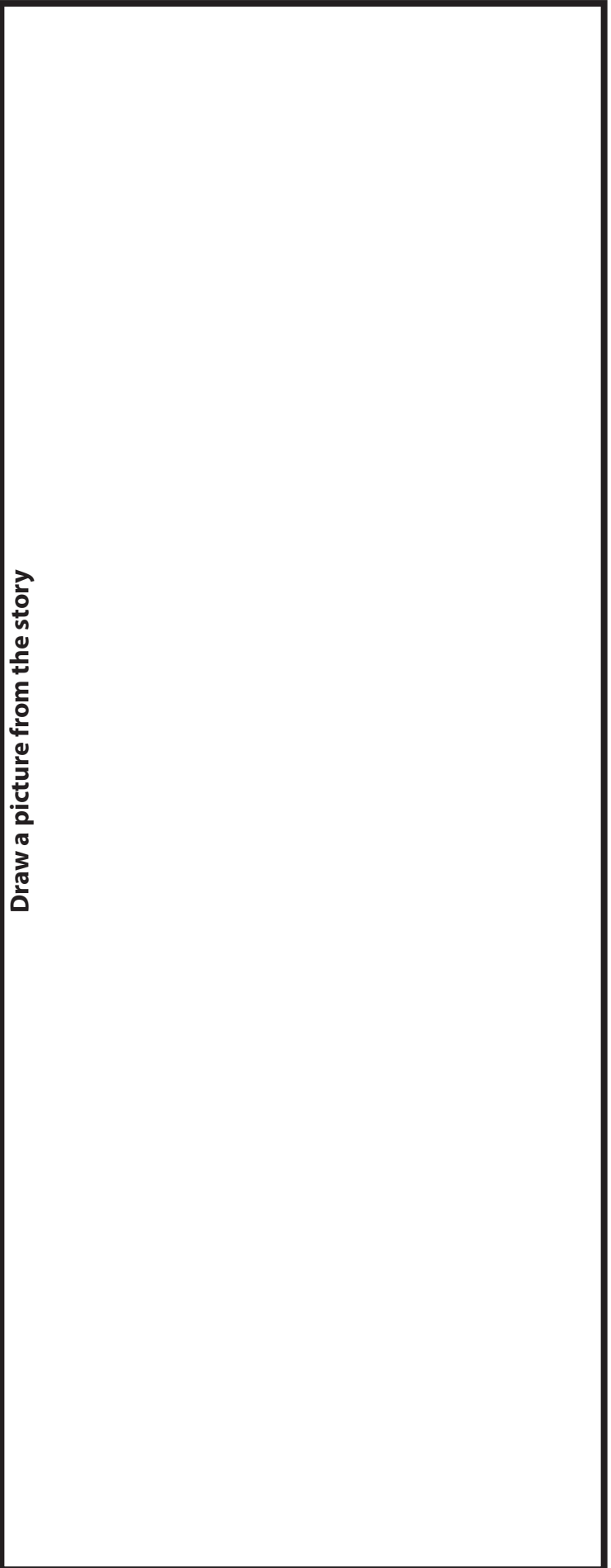
**Our Bible Verse is: 1 Corinthians 6:19**

"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God?"

But what about you and me? Could this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit, given long ago to those first believers be even for us? Yes, it can be.

It is God's promise to all of His people, to all who confess their sins, turn away from sinning, and trust in Jesus as Savior. It is His promise to us, if we do this. And who will come to live in our hearts? Why God's Holy Spirit! There will not be a mighty wind when He comes to live in us. That was to make it clear to the disciples that the Holy Spirit was coming. But nonetheless, He will come and do the same powerful work in our hearts, changing them so that we love God and want to live for Him, more and more each day.

Draw a picture from the story



**SOME QUESTIONS FOR YOU**

**1. A Question about the Bible Truth, True or False:**  
 After Jesus rose from the dead, He told them He was going to heaven to reign and they would have to take care of themselves.  
 Answer: False! Jesus told them that He would send the Holy Spirit to live inside them, to comfort and to help them.

**2. Crack the Case Questions**

**a. Who were the Watchful Waiters? Who were they watching and waiting for?**  
 Answer: The first believers in Jesus. They were watching and waiting for the Holy Spirit.

**b. When did He come? What did He do?**  
 Answer: He came on the Day of Pentecost. He came to live in their hearts.

**3. Fill in the missing words from the Bible Verse:**  
**1 Corinthians 6:19**  
 "Do you not \_\_\_ that your body is a \_\_\_ of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you \_\_\_ received from God?"  
 Answers: know; temple; have.

**BIBLE TRUTH HYMN**

**Breathe on Me, Breath of God**  
*PFI NIV Songs 10, Tracks 7,8*

**Verse 1**  
 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
 Fill me with life anew,  
 That I may love what Thou dost love,  
 And do what Thou wouldst do.

**Verse 2**  
 Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
 Until my heart is pure,  
 Until with Thee I will Thy will,  
 To do and to endure.

Words: Edwin Hatch    Music: Robert Jackson

We are all sinners. We were made to love and obey God, but we have all turned away from that most wonderful of lives. Only God can change us and He can, by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is nicknamed the "Breath of God." Our breath fills our body with the air that it needs to live. The Holy Spirit fills God's people with Himself so that they can know and love God and have His eternal life. God will send His Holy Spirit to work this way in us when we turn from our sins and trust in Jesus as our Savior. This song is a prayer asking Him to do this.

**AN ACTS PRAYER FROM OUR STORY**

*A=Adoration, C=Confession, T=Thanksgiving, S=Supplication*

**A** God, we praise You for being so merciful to sinners, that You would make a way through Jesus, for the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts.

**C** God, we confess that just like the people gathered to hear Peter speak, we are sinners who do not deserve Your Holy Spirit to dwell in our hearts. It is only by faith and forgiveness through Jesus that we can receive Your Holy Spirit.

**T** God, we thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell inside Your people. How wonderful it is that they can know You in close fellowship inside their hearts!

**S** God, work in our hearts! Help us to turn away from our sins and trust Jesus as our own Savior. Send the Holy Spirit to live in our hearts, that we might know Your close fellowship in our own hearts.

**BIBLE VERSE SONG**

**A Temple of the Holy Spirit**  
*PFI NIV Songs 10, Track 9*

Do you not know? Do you not know?  
 Do you not know, that your body is a temple?  
 Do you not know? Do you not know?  
 Do you not know, that your body is a temple?  
 A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,  
 A temple of the Holy Spirit within you,  
 Whom you have from God,  
 Whom you have from God.  
 First Corinthians Chapter Six, verse nineteen.

Words: 1 Corinthians 6:19, NIV 1984    Music: Constance Dever ©2015

God created every person with a body and a special heart, made to know and love God. When we become God's people, God fills that heart with His Holy Spirit. That makes their bodies like a temple--a special place of God's presence-- inside their bodies. What an amazing gift from God that we all can have!