

The Transforming Spirit



Christ's disciples were with Him for three years, in intimacy of friendship.

They walked with Him, they lived with Him.

They heard His incomparable parables.

They listened to every sermon He ever preached.

They saw with their own eyes each one of His wonderful miracles.

They saw the blind receive their sight, the lame throw away their crutches.

They saw withered limbs become straight and strong.

They even saw the dead raised to newness of life.

All these things they saw and heard.

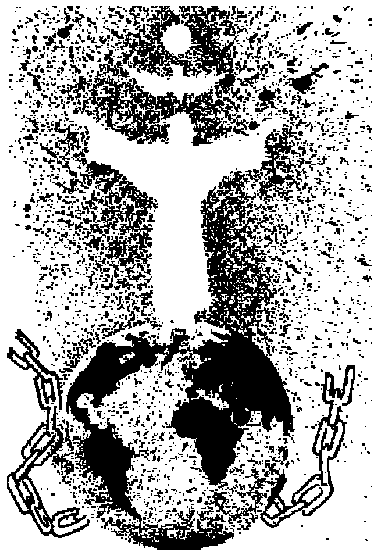
Yet these things did not change these men.

They were jealous of each other.

They were not very brave.

They did not have much faith.

All the possibilities of change in them had been created, but the changes had not yet happened.



What did change them?

Not the crucifixion. Not the resurrection.

But the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

Not until these men were filled with the Holy Ghost were they changed.

So that cowardice gave place to courage.

Unbelief became a flaming faith and conviction that nothing on earth could shake.

Jealousy was swallowed up in brotherly love, self-interest was killed and became a ministry to others.

Fear was banished and they were afraid of no man, no threat, no danger.

And therein lies our hope.

We have not seen Jesus as they did,
We never heard the sound of His voice,
or saw the sunlight dance on His hair,
or traced His footprints in the sands of Palestine.
But we have the same opportunity to be changed,
because the same Holy Spirit is available to us today.
He has been sent into the world to lead us into all truth,
To convict us of sin,
to be our Helper, our Guide.....



Tasks

1. Listen to the CD and then re-read this poem.
2. In your own words explain the following quotations from the poem:
 - a) 'Cowardice gave place to courage'.
 - b) 'Jealousy was swallowed up in brotherly love.'
 - c) 'Fear was banished ... and therein lies our hope'.
 - d) 'But we have the same opportunity to be changed, because the same Holy Spirit is available to us today.'