

LESSON 22

Foundations Curriculum

Jesus After the Exaltation

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Introduction

Jesus After the Exaltation

In this twenty-second lesson, we will speak about what happened with Jesus after His exaltation. Our attention will be directed to what has been taking place since He was exalted and before His return.

The previous lesson brought us, with a wealth of detail, how the exaltation of Jesus took place. Here we will address something important that has to do with what happens after the exaltation of Jesus and before He returns.

1) What Was the First Act of Christ After Being Exalted?

The first act of Christ after being exalted is described in Peter's sermon and can be found in Acts 2:33: "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear."

As declared by Peter, upon being exalted, Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit. In the text of John, Jesus Himself says that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon those who believed in Him.

*"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said,
out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*

*But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him
would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given,
because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

John 7:38–39 (NKJV)

Here we begin to understand, based on these texts, that it was Jesus who poured out the Holy Spirit, and that this was a sign that He had already been glorified.

The Holy Spirit was not sent before, while the glorification of Jesus was not yet complete. We do not know in detail how all of this occurred.

Let us pay attention to the connection that exists between the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is captivating to observe the relationship among the three persons of the Trinity. The Father sent the Son and gave Him authority to send the Holy Spirit. In John 15:26, Jesus tells us: “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.”

A truth to be kept:

The FATHER SENT the SON, and the SON came. The SON SENT the HOLY SPIRIT, and the HOLY SPIRIT came.

Jesus says that the Holy Spirit will glorify Him.

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.”

John 16:13–14 (NKJV)

The Son came to glorify the Father, and the Holy Spirit came to glorify the Son.

What we have seen so far allows us to draw a simple and practical conclusion: in our walk with Jesus, it is indispensable that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It is indispensable that we be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Let us see what Jesus Himself affirms about this:

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

John 14:16–18 (NKJV)

THE SPIRIT WHO DWELLS WITH YOU AND WILL BE IN YOU...

This expression deserves to be highlighted. When Jesus was with them, the Holy Spirit dwelt there. And Jesus is saying that, when He was no longer physically present, His relationship with the disciples would not diminish but would advance, deepen. The deepening would occur because the Spirit who was in Jesus, yet outside of them, would come to dwell in them.

The Spirit was in Christ; He was outside of them. It is interesting that Jesus uses the word “another” — He was referring to a substitute. It is as if He were saying: “I will not be here physically present, but I will send you ‘another’ Helper so that He may be within you.”

In practice, we have much more than the disciples had when they walked with Jesus. We have the Holy Spirit who was sent to be in us.

There are many other texts that show the Holy Spirit as the Helper. The Greek expression is PARAKLETOS. The word we use in English, “Comforter” or “Helper,” is not sufficient to define everything the Holy Spirit is in our lives. It gives a notion of encouragement, of relief.

The word PARAKLETOS, however, carries a deeper meaning: the One who is at your side, who is alongside, who walks alongside. Jesus is not physically here, but I am. Let us go forward — I am with you!

PARAKLETOS also refers to one who pleads our cause, a counselor. In this word we find a breadth of meanings.

Regarding the fact that it was Jesus who poured out the Holy Spirit, something very simple and direct must be said:

It is impossible to love Jesus and despise the Holy Spirit.

Those who love Christ and want to walk in His will, obey His words, and live a life of love for the Father discover that it is impossible without the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit is an extension, a continuation of the work that Jesus did here on earth.

2) Jesus Defends Us and Delivers Us from the Accusations of Satan

This other action of Jesus is something that began two thousand years ago, but which He continues to do to this day.

*“Who shall bring a charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies.
Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen,
who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”*

Romans 8:33–34 (NKJV)

Let us focus on the text of Romans 8 and reflect on this truth. Here it is necessary that we face reality and do so in a raw and unvarnished way. Many were our sins when we were enemies of God, practitioners of evil works.

We sinned against God and paid Him no regard. We despised the knowledge of God; we embraced our ego, satisfying the flesh and its thoughts. How much injustice and wickedness there was on our lips! How many times we grumbled or complained about life... Other times our lips were deceitful, forging positive impressions of ourselves, trying to appear to be what we are not. How many times were we foolish enough to think we were something we are not.

Many times, even in childhood, how many of us did not deceive or try to deceive our parents, telling lies or omitting facts? What can be said of malicious insinuations, rash judgment, wickedness, slander, and defamation? How many times in life did we covet, were greedy, or were envious? What about cowardice, the fear of men, the idolatry of our self-image before society?

And if we recall vanity and exhibitionism, who among us will come out unscathed? We were disobedient to parents, senseless, faithless, without affection and without mercy. Above all this, we were hateful toward God and paid no regard to His grief over our lives.

Worse still, after having already been received by God, how many times did we return to sin — and the worst of sins, which is pride, the feeling of superiority that translates into arrogance and even insolence and impudence.

What does the enemy, the great accuser of the brethren, do with our past, with our sins and weaknesses? He does not need to hire a detective to point out our errors, for he himself, the devil, knows the justice, the rigor, and the severity of God. He knows that the entire human race is considered by God as children of wrath and followers of darkness. He knows how the Lord thinks and judges.

Who will deliver us from this accuser whom the Bible says accuses us day and night? Does the Lord not know that his accusations are based on real facts, and that we truly sinned?

How will God argue with the evil one, if what he brings are facts? And God knows, more than anyone, that these facts are real.

What can God the Father do — He who loves His children, those children who surrendered to Him, who love Him, who seek to walk in His ways?

What can be said in their defense when they stumble, whether in the flesh, in the spirit, in words, in wrong motivations, in omission, or in carnal feelings?

They do stumble, yes! But they repent, confess, and withdraw. They always flee from their sins, crucify the flesh with its passions and desires, and cry out for the mercy of God.

How will God condemn the devil and spare these? He is the Judge of all things. He cannot deny Himself. Impunity is not His offspring, and He shows no partiality. What will He do with those who come to Him full of sins, crying out for mercy and humbling themselves before Him and before men?

How is it possible for God to maintain justice before the universal court and, at the same time, find a way out for those who came to Him, who were loved by Him?

But the Lord looks to His right hand, and seated with Him on His throne is the Lamb who was slain. His glory and majesty do not hide His wounds. His scars are visible for all eternity. This perfect, majestic, glorious, and suffering Man intercedes for the accused.

Jesus shows once more His wounds, day and night, and they speak louder than all the demons. Death did not hold Him, and it will not be the devil who holds His brothers and sisters, whom He loved and for whom He gave Himself.

When on the cross Jesus said “IT IS FINISHED,” He was referring to His sufferings and His redemptive work on earth — suffered, difficult. However, today Jesus is not inactive. He is at the right hand of God the Father and intercedes, day and night, for His beloved. And the Father who loves us maintains His justice while forgiving us, because He sees once again that His Son died for our sins and intercedes for us day and night.

May the Lord bless us, and may the work of God in our lives remain and grow more and more, until it is as the perfect day in the presence of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

In this lesson, we learned about what happened with Jesus after His exaltation and before He returns. We saw that the first act of Jesus after His exaltation was the sending of the Holy Spirit — the “other” Helper — who came to replace the physical presence of Jesus. We also learned that another action of Jesus is His constant intercession for us before God. We understood the connection that exists between the ministry of Jesus and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01** Are you aware of the gravity of your sins before God?
- 02** Do you live in the fear of the Lord, watching, confessing, and constantly surrendering?
- 03** Do you enjoy the joy of having Christ as your advocate before the Judge of all the earth?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)