

Dear Friend,

The disciples loved Jesus. They had left everything to follow Him. Not only had they seen Jesus do many healings and miracles, but they had also actually seen healing and miracles done through their own hands. The Holy Spirit worked with them as they went forth to preach the gospel in the years prior to the crucifixion. Yet the new birth was not available to them yet, so they were still natural men with natural brains that were pretty much limited to understanding the things of this world. Jesus said to them,

John 16:12 KJV I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

A perfect example of that is when Jesus told them, more than once, that He would be arrested, tortured, and killed in Jerusalem, but then would be raised from the dead on the third day. Here is one of the times Jesus told them very clearly what would happen.

Matthew 16:21 KJV From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

He told them, but they could not bear it. Mary Magdeline was the first to see the risen Christ. She told the disciples He had risen from the dead, and they did not believe her. Later that same day Mary Magdeline, together with a group of women, saw the risen Christ. They told the disciples that Jesus was raised from the dead. They didn't believe them either. Their words were like "idle tales."

Luke 24:10-11 KJV It was Mary Magdalene, and Joanna, and Mary the mother of James, and other women that were with them, which told these things unto the apostles. [11] And their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not.

Then two men saw the risen Christ on their way to Emmaus. They told the disciples Jesus was risen from the dead, and they didn't believe them either. Finally, Jesus appeared to all the disciples, but Thomas wasn't with them at the time. The disciples now believed because they had seen Jesus "with their own eyes." When they told Thomas they had seen Jesus raised from the dead, Thomas did not believe them. He said he would not believe until he touched the scars in His palms and in his side where they pierced him. Finally, Jesus appeared to Thomas, and only then did he believe.

John 20:29 KJV Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

It is amazing to me that not one of the disciples were willing to believe the testimony of eyewitnesses who had seen Jesus raised from the dead. That is how the natural brain normally functions. "I will believe it when I see it." Yet the very next two verses in the gospel of John says

we are to believe the eyewitness testimony of those who saw Him, even though we did not see those things with our natural eyes.

John 20:30-31 KJV And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: [31] But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

There are millions of believers on planet earth today who have not seen the risen Christ with their own eyes. How is it possible that we can believe the eyewitness testimony of those who physically saw Him, when none of them were willing to do it without seeing Him first with their own eyes? The answer is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, who had not been poured out in those days, but has been poured out ever since the day of Pentecost described in Acts chapter two.

John 6:44 KJV No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

The Father draws us by the Holy Spirit when we hear the gospel preached. Once we are born again, we are recreated with a spiritual mind that is capable of comprehending the things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:12-14 KJV Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. [13] Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. [14] But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

We now have a spiritual mind that can be taught the things of God, and we have been given the Holy Spirit to teach us those things. God is good all the time. God loves when we spend time reading the Word of God and then spend time praying much in the Holy Spirit so we can understand the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

GARY