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## Passing on the Torch of Light and Power

BY RITA BENNETT, WORSHIP COLUMNIST

Do you want to know what Jesus' personal commandments are? For the last two columns we studied Commandment No. 1. Now here is Commandment No. 2.



"And being assembled together with them [Jesus' Apostles] He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which," He said, "You have heard from Me;"

"For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit, not many days from now" – (Acts 1:4.5 NKJV).

Jesus had been raised from the dead and was seen by over 500 people – (1 Corinthians 15:6). For 40 days He completed His final work before He returned to His Father in Heaven.

During this time, He appeared in the Upper Room where the Apostles were gathered and in His eternal, timeless body was able to enter the room without a key. This day He Commissioned the Apostles.

Entering He said, "Peace to you" (which is "Shalom" in Hebrew), "as the Father has sent Me, I also send you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them "Receive (admit) the Holy Spirit" – (John 20:21,22 NKJV, and Amplified Bible).

Here they were indwelt with the Holy Spirit, Born Again.

### THOMAS HAS AN ENCOUNTER

This is that famous time when the Apostle Thomas had told the other Apostles he would not believe that Jesus was alive unless He personally showed him the wounds in the palms of His hands and His side. You see Thomas, the twin, missed the commissioning experience the previous day.

Some of Jesus' unfinished business was to help Thomas believe. After eight more days the Apostles were again in the Upper Room, this time Thomas was there.

"Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, 'Peace to you.' Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands, and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."

"And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:26b - 28). This was one of the greatest biblical declarations of who Jesus is. At that moment Thomas experienced spiritual rebirth.

### TWO STEPS

The "first step" of a Believer's life is to be indwelt with Jesus' life by the Holy Spirit – a new birth (John 3:3).

The "second step" is what Jesus said to His disciples in Acts 1:8, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ..." You will receive "power" that is in Greek "dunamus" or literally "dynamite!"

When Jesus, God's only Son, was ready to leave Planet Earth for His Home above, He did not leave His chief Apostles without the power to carry on His work. They needed to be ready every day to defeat the kingdom of darkness, passing the torch of God on to others who would be running the race eventually worldwide, down through the millennia.

The power is passed on not only to Apostles and Pastors in our day, but to laymen and women, to teens, to children. We too are commissioned to be indwelt, and empowered to pass on the Good News of Jesus' redeeming love. We need it now more than ever...

Next time I'll tell you more about the dynamite power of God which is a major part of this second Commandment.

My friend, you have not been left alone. God's omnipresence is here the moment you call upon Him. He brings a refreshing presence. He brings powerful gifts to sustain you. He gives you wisdom beyond your own.

Breathe deep, relax and talk your needs over with Him...

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