

Discussion questions

1. **The risen Jesus pours out the Spirit.** What does Peter's explanation in Acts 2:32–33 reveal about the connection between Jesus' reign and the Spirit's coming? How might this shape our expectations for the church's life and witness?

2. **God rescues us before we learn to live in freedom.** Read Colossians 1:13–14 alongside Romans 8:14–16. How might the assurance that we belong to God change our response to fear, failure, or the need for correction?

3. **The Kingdom becomes visible in our shared life.** Why does it matter that Paul speaks about righteousness, peace, and joy while addressing disagreements? Where might the Spirit be inviting our community to grow in one of these qualities?

4. **We receive the Spirit while still awaiting full restoration.** How does that help us approach suffering and unfinished growth? What is one faithful step you could take this week while trusting God with the outcome?

This week's spiritual practice: Pause, Ask, Follow, Reflect

This practice continues the pause of trust from Message 6. Choose one relationship or recurring situation where you can deliberately depend on the Spirit and practice Jesus' way.

1. Pause and remember your belonging

At the beginning of the week, read Colossians 1:13–14 slowly.

Receive the passage as a reminder of what God has done through Jesus: rescue, Kingdom belonging, redemption, and forgiveness.

Choose an ordinary situation where you tend to become impatient, defensive, anxious, or inattentive. Keep the focus specific.

When that situation arises, take a slow breath and pray:

"Jesus, I belong to you."

2. Ask for the Spirit's help

Continue the prayer:

"By your Spirit, teach me your way here. Help me see this person clearly and seek their good."

Make room to listen before responding.

You do not need an unusual feeling or a special message before you can obey what Jesus has already taught. His teaching gives you a faithful place to begin.

Ask: *What would love, truthfulness, patience, or generosity look like in my next response?*

3. Follow with one concrete step

Choose something small and specific.

Listen without interrupting. Ask a sincere question. Acknowledge a mistake without adding an excuse. Offer practical help. Make room for someone who is being overlooked.

Sometimes the faithful step will be speaking a difficult truth or maintaining a necessary boundary with gentleness.

If an opportunity arises naturally, speak about Jesus and the difference his grace is making in your life.

Remain open to correction. Test any sense of direction against Scripture, Jesus' character, and wise counsel where needed.

4. Reflect with grace

At the end of the day, spend two minutes asking:

- What did I notice about my usual response?
- Where did I receive help to follow Jesus' way?
- Is there something to confess, repair, or practice again tomorrow?

If you remember only afterward, begin there. Returning to someone with an apology may be the next faithful step.

Repeat the practice throughout the week. Share one thing you are learning with a trusted friend or your group.

Holy Spirit, help me receive the grace of Jesus and follow his way. Form righteousness, peace, and joy in our life together. Give me courage to take the next faithful step. Amen.