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Acts 5:27-33

27. “When they had brought them, they stood them before the Council. The high priest questioned them,

28. saying, ‘We gave you strict orders not to continue teaching in this name, and yet, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.’

29. But Peter and the apostles answered, ‘We must obey God rather than men.

30. ‘The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross.

31. ‘He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

32. ‘And we are witnesses of these things; and *so is* the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.’

33. But when they heard this, they were cut to the quick and intended to kill them.”

Yes, this Scripture passage thrills us with the courage of the apostles as they stood fast before the authorities and cried out, “We must obey God rather than men.” This reminds me of what William Penn once wrote back in the

colonial times of America: “Right is right, even if everyone is against it. And wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it.”

Today I’d like to consider the apostles’ statement at the end of this passage: “And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.”

Notice the Holy Spirit is given under these spiritual terms: by God to those who obey Jesus. This is very significant, in that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the body of the Christian seals him in Christ. Romans 8:9 specifically states, “However, you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”

In other words, if the Spirit is inside your body, you belong to Christ. If you don’t have the indwelling Spirit, you are not a Christian according to God’s Word.

Therefore we conclude that the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in a person is of utmost importance. So, how does one obey God to receive the Spirit, the Holy Spirit, the same Spirit that indwelt Jesus when he walked the earth?

Well, that’s a good question! That’s a real important question, don’t you think? And so it’s a controversial question--the devil has made sure of that. A question that each denomination, each religious organization that even remotely call themselves “Christian” must deal with,

especially if we are called into one body!

The Scriptures are clear, even if the organizations of men are not! When did Jesus receive the Holy Spirit sent from God, His Father in heaven?

What did Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, answer the multitudes who were pierced in their hearts by the message of salvation and asked, “Brethren, what shall we do?”

How does one obey the gospel of Jesus Christ today?

Remember, God only gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him.