

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

"Peace Be Unto You"



Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them. Peace be unto you.

And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad when they saw the Lord.

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.

And when he had said this he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto you; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them. Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my fingers into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the door being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.

Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing.

John 20:19-29.

The occasions upon which Christ Jesus met and talked privately with His disciples were always fraught with the deepest spiritual significance. Lofty spiritual truths were imparted by the great Teacher to His pupils at these times, or they were initiated by Him into yet higher stages of consciousness. Scripture records mention thirteen appearances of the Christ to His disciples during the forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension.

Every follower of the Christ is to perform in increasing measure the services that He performed for humanity. He sacrificed Himself, *willingly*, to become the indwelling Planetary Spirit of the earth, and thus made possible the future progress of mankind—"As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." So it is that every sincere aspirant must willingly sacrifice himself—the personal self based upon egoism and desire—for his fellow beings. The higher self must be given full rein and the spiritual potentialities of the Ego allowed to flower in all their fullness. Only thus can one become a true disciple, aiding in the great work of teaching and healing humanity in their struggle upward on the spiral path.

The receiving of the Holy Spirit by the disciples at this time refers to a completion of their union with the third Aspect of the Holy Trinity, after having fully overcome the desire body. This initiation marked the attainment of ability to speak in all tongues, and to utter words so filled with life and love that they truly soothed and healed. The spiritual power they now had was such that they could remit "sins," or break up the various kinds of crystallizations they found in those suffering from their violation of the laws of God.

Thomas was the doubter, symbolical of the skepticism induced by the separative mind. This is one of the greatest obstacles faced by the material intellect which predominates among the Western peoples of today. Only when the mind is spiritualized, and the aspirant has reached the point where he can live with *faith* as the underlying factor in his life can he profit by the salutation of the Christ, "Peace be unto you," and possess that inner "peace that passeth all understanding."