

God's Hand Filled the Gloves

Receive the Holy Spirit.

JOHN 20:22

Written by Bill Perkins

And He breathed on them and said,

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

John 20:22

The night before His death,

while in the Upper Room,

Jesus promised a Helper—the Spirit

(Jn 14:16–17; 16:7).

The disciples didn't understand what He meant.

And here's something you may not know about Jesus—

that night, before Pentecost,

He gave them a foretaste of what He meant.

He breathed on them and said,

“Receive the Holy Spirit.”

Or to say it another way—

after His resurrection He gave them the Spirit,

like a hand entering a glove for the first time.

Before this moment,

the Spirit had moved—

not in them,

but among God's people—

only for a task.

Skill for their hands.

Boldness for their mission.

Truth for their message.

Then the power lifted.

But this would be different.

The Spirit would stay.

Jesus knew the better gift was coming.

They had tasted indwelling—
but not yet what the Hand
could fully do.
They were like a glove already entered,
waiting for strength
they had never known.

Jesus had told them
it would be better for Him to leave—
a sentence that made no sense.
Why would losing Him be gain (Jn 16:7)?

They also wondered what He meant
when He said the Spirit would come
with power (Acts 1:4–5, 8).

So they waited
in the same Upper Room
where He had broken bread.
Holding a promise
they couldn't yet explain.

And then—
the Spirit came.
Not a foretaste,
but the fullness.
Not a whisper,
but the power Jesus promised.

They were all filled.
The Hand moved the glove.
Strength surged through them,
and their fingers began to move
with power
(Acts 2:4; 1:8).

Fear broke.
Courage rose.
The men who once hid
stepped into the streets
with a strength
not their own.

The Spirit
who came with power then
is the Spirit
who strengthens us now—
not with wind and fire,
but with His strength at work in us,
enabling us to live the life
of the Master.

The strength of the glove
isn't in the glove,
but the Hand that fills it.

And what happened next
would show them
what the Hand can do
when it stays.