

GRACEPOINT CHURCH

Weekly Devotional

**Spirit-led living
More than a Sunday Experience**

The quiet Pentecost – Anele Bonoyi – 24.5.2026

Scripture

John 20:19-31

Open your mind and heart as you read the passage of Scripture aloud and then again quietly to yourself. Listen for God's word to you.

Spend some time in worship.

Observation

Mary had met Jesus at the tomb on the Sunday morning – the first day of the week. That evening, as ten of the disciples (without Judas and Thomas) had gathered together behind locked doors, because they were afraid of the Jewish leadership, Jesus came to them and spoke to them, offering them His peace. They had all deserted Him earlier but, instead of a rebuke, He now gave them His peace, thus reassuring them that there was no cause for them to be afraid by His sudden appearance. He showed them His hands and His side, proving that He actually was Jesus and that He had truly risen from the dead. Again, He offered them the gift of peace—both internal, personal peace; and external peace about their lives and their future. He commissioned them to continue His work on earth and spread the Good News to the world.

Just as God had breathed life into Adam in the Garden of Eden at the time of his creation (Genesis 2:7), so now, Jesus breathed new life into His disciples. He told them to receive the Holy Spirit, as if His breath shared His own Spirit with them. The Holy Spirit empowered them to do the work He instructed them to do. He gave them the authority to announce forgiveness of sin, or to retain sin, both in accordance with God's word and the wisdom they would receive from the Holy Spirit.

When Thomas later joined the group, he was skeptical about their account of what had happened. But he was honest about his unbelief when he stated he would need to see Jesus himself to believe what the others were telling him. It was eight days later that Jesus appeared to the disciples in their locked room and offered them His peace again. This time, Thomas was with them and Jesus gave him the evidence he had demanded. He repeated Thomas' words back to him as He stretched out His hands and offered His side to the disciple, revealing His

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love, mercy and kindness to His doubting follower. Jesus commanded Thomas to put aside his unbelief and believe. Thomas immediately responded in faith, declaring the Lordship and divinity of Jesus. There is no record that Thomas actually touched Jesus' wounds – it was perhaps enough for him to merely see the risen Lord standing in front of him. Jesus affirmed his faith but continued that those who had not seen Him and yet still believed would be blessed. This blessing stretches over every believer for the duration of time. John ends his gospel by stating that Jesus did much more during His time on earth but there was too much to record in a book. He had recorded what he did so that those who read his words would believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and so receive life in Him.

Icebreaker:

What have you achieved that you did not think you could accomplish in your life?

What did it mean to you?

Did anyone help you?

How do you feel looking back on that achievement now?

Application

- What does the Holy Spirit mean to you at this time in your life?
- *Jesus always appears at the right time:* Have you found this statement to be true in your life? What happened? How has the event you describe impacted your life?
- *Jesus gives us peace:* Are you aware of the peace Jesus offers you? What does it mean to you? How do you become aware of it? Does it have physical indicators? Is it a sense of external or internal peace – or both? How has it helped you in the past?
- Have you been aware of Jesus' peace before you start some task or ministry for Him? What difference does it make? Can you trust God to give you the power, wisdom and strength to accomplish His work? Why/why not?
- *Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit:* When did you first become aware of the Holy Spirit in your life? How would you describe His presence, power, comfort and guidance? Have you seen the fruit of His presence growing in your life? How does He help you on a day-to-day basis?
- How can the group help you with the struggles you have mentioned during this session?

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Prayer

Pray for one another in regard to the issues that have been raised during your discussion time, and in regard to other needs of the group.

Service

Commit this coming week to God in prayer and ask Jesus to send His Holy Spirit to empower and guide you in all you do for Him. Follow His lead as you serve Him.

Bibliography

<https://enduringword.com/bible-commentary/john-20/>



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