

The Big Question

What is the “Church Age”?

Sacrifices, priests, the Law of Moses, the tabernacle, the temple, kings, prophets, and the Promised Land. Read the Old Testament or the Gospels and you will find those topics addressed a lot. None of those topics, however, play a major role in the Christian life. So what changed? Why are the topics in the Old Testament and part of the Gospels not directly applicable to believers today? The answer is found all the way back in the days following Jesus’ ascension from earth back to Heaven.

Before Jesus left, He promised to send the Holy Spirit to earth to live in His followers (John 14:16, 17). When Jesus’ disciples and others were gathered in Jerusalem, a mighty wind began to blow through their meeting room (Acts 2:2). Who had ever heard of wind blowing through a closed room? That wasn’t normal. The wind was the Holy Spirit’s way of announcing His arrival and the start of a new way for God to relate to His people.

Following the wind, the Holy Spirit caused flames to appear and rest over the heads of all the believers. The flames showed that the Holy Spirit had entered the bodies of all the believers present. The flames also showed that the Spirit came to empower Jesus’ followers to go into the world to share the gospel.

The coming of the Holy Spirit marked the end of the Old Testament ways and the beginning of the Church Age. Old Testament believers didn’t have the Holy Spirit living in them permanently like we do in the Church Age.

Today is a great time to be alive! You have the Spirit in you to give you joy, peace, and power! That’s awesome! Rejoice to be part of the Church Age!

Fast Forward

For a Limited Time Only!

If you have trusted in Jesus as your Savior, then you are a permanent part of Christ’s church. Everyone else who trusts in Jesus automatically becomes part of Christ’s church too. That won’t always be the case, though. There is a membership deadline.

At some point in the future, an archangel will shout and a trumpet will sound. Then Christ will return to the air above the earth, raise believers who have died, and rapture all living believers to return with Him to Heaven (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). Christ’s return for His church is the deadline to become part of His church. People who are saved during the Tribulation on earth or during Christ’s Kingdom on earth will not be part of the church.

As part of Christ’s church, you will get to reign with Christ in His Kingdom. Who knows, maybe He’ll put you in charge of your hometown or perhaps an exotic part of Africa. Either way, you will forever be glad you are part of Christ’s church!

Ponder Points

1. How might you express your gratefulness for being part of Christ’s church?
2. Who will you invite to join you as part of Christ’s church?



Discover the Differences

While every believer is different, all believers have the Holy Spirit in them. None of us could ever say we can't serve God well because we lack the Holy Spirit's enabling. Find the 13 differences between the two fireside pictures.



ANSWER:



Key Word Search

Find the key words from this week's lesson in the word search.

W S I P T F F P L A
 S M M S J I E I C O
 E O E E L M R P R T
 S T T L W D H I W E
 S I E T A J C I P L
 E D L S I S R M F S
 N M P O T D U S A U
 T E F P I L H R M S
 I W C A J L C W E E
 W I N D P T A O C J

KEY WORDS:

JESUS, SPIRIT, CHURCH,
 WIND, FIRE, APOSTLES, FILLED,
 WITNESSES, JERUSALEM, WAIT.



Measuring Growth

Measurables

Look for the following indicators that your child appreciates the impact of being part of Christ's church.

1. My child values going to church.
2. My child desires to be active in his or her church's ministries.
3. My child depends on the Holy Spirit for the wisdom and power to serve God well.



The Junior lesson for this week covered the beginning of the Church Age with the coming of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The Spirit indwelt Jesus' followers to empower them to take the gospel around the world. Your child was encouraged to value Christ's church and to be a vital part of serving in it. Talk with your child about the measurables.

