

The Spiritual Condition of the Disciples Before Pentecost

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- Jn. 17:14 They were not of the world, just as Jesus was not of the world,
but they were not yet converted (Matt. 18:3).
- Jn. 16:27 They were loved by the Father,
but they were not yet one with Him (Jn. 17:11, 21-23).
- Jn. 15:3 They were clean,
but they were not yet sanctified (Jn. 17:17).
- Jn. 14:17 The Spirit was with them,
but it was not yet in them.
- Jn. 15:16 They were chosen and ordained by Jesus,
but they didn't really know Jesus,
nor did they understand what he was doing (Jn. 13:7).
- Jn. 15:19 They were hated by the world,
but they did not yet believe (Jn. 16:31).
- Jn. 17:8 They believed Jesus came from God, and they loved him (Jn. 16:27),
but they had never asked the Father anything in Jesus's name
(Jn. 16:23-24).

This is the spiritual condition not only of the disciples before Pentecost but also of everyone whom Jesus calls, but before he baptizes them with the holy Ghost. No one in this spiritual condition can die; Jesus promised that whoever hungers and thirsts after righteousness shall be filled (Mt. 5:6). While in this state, a person's feelings may become like those of a woman in the pains of labor when she has come to the hour of giving birth. This is how Jesus described his disciples' heavy feelings during his last supper with them (Jn. 16:20-22). He thought it was a good and normal spiritual condition, one that would lead to great joy for those who persevered through it.