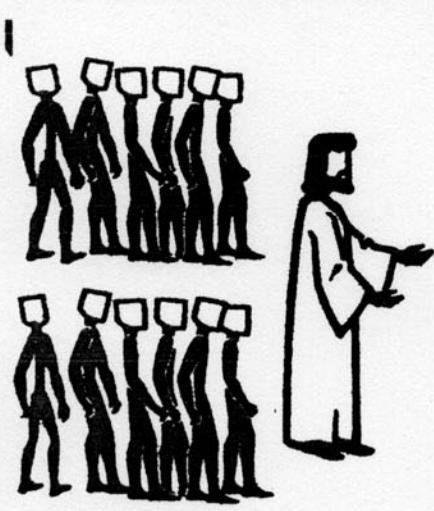
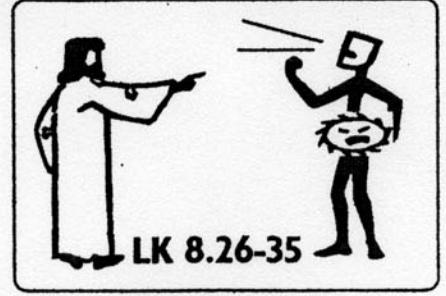


THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

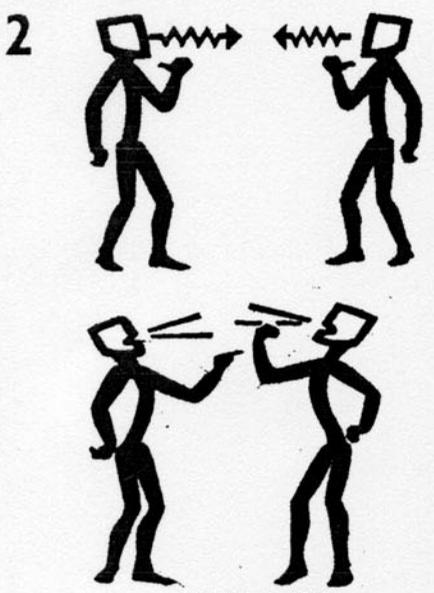
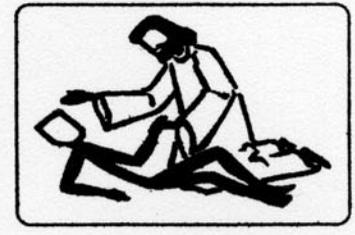
1. Jesus chose twelve men to be his disciples. These disciples left their parents, families and businesses to follow Jesus. He trained them so that they could carry on with his work after he had gone back to heaven. They spent three years following Jesus. During this time Jesus taught them about God, and how to pray. They often listened to Jesus praying. The disciples saw Jesus heal the sick, cast out demons, raise the dead, and do other miracles.
They listened to him when he was teaching in the temple, or by the lake, or on a mountainside. The disciples were always with Jesus. They said in **John 6.69**, "And now we believe and know that you are the Holy One who has come from God."
2. The disciples loved Jesus and followed him eagerly but there were some things in their lives which were not good. **Luke 9.46** says, " An argument broke out among the disciples as to which one of them was the greatest." Each one of them wanted to have first place, and be in charge. Sometimes this happens in the local church. Someone wants to control everything, and have the most important place in the church. This type of behavior is very harmful, and does not bring glory to Jesus.
3. **Luke 9.52-53**. Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem. Jesus sent messengers on ahead of him to prepare a place for them to stay in a village in Samaria. However, the people of Samaria did not like the people of Judea, and they did not want Jesus to come and stay in their village.
4. **Luke 9.54-56**. When James and John saw this they were angry and asked Jesus if they could call down fire upon the place and destroy it. Jesus rebuked his disciples, and they went on to another village. Being angry and returning evil for evil was still in the hearts of the disciples, and Jesus was not happy about this. Anger and other sins are still in the hearts of many Christians.
5. **Mark 14.27-31**. The disciples loved Jesus, followed him and really felt that they would always stay strong in their faith and help Jesus. Peter even said. "I will never deny you, even if I have to die with you" When the soldiers came and captured Jesus however, the disciples all ran away, (**Mark 14.50**). This must have disappointed the Lord Jesus very much. Many Christians do the same thing. When temptations and difficulties come to us, we sometimes hide our Christian faith, and we do not stay strong Christians.
6. **Mark 14.66- 72**. Peter was often the spokesman among the disciples, and he had said that he would never deny or leave Jesus. After Jesus had been taken captive, Peter was standing outside the court when a woman came to him and said. "You, too, were with Jesus of Nazareth" but Peter denied it. Three times Peter denied Jesus. Peter wanted to follow Jesus, but when he felt his life was in danger he denied that he even knew Jesus. He didn't have the inner strength to stand up for Jesus. How many times have we denied Jesus in our homes, in our workplace, or in our leisure times? Do we hide the fact that we are followers of Jesus? Are we afraid that we will be laughed at or ridiculed for being a Christian? (**I John 2.23, Titus 1.16**).
7. Jesus knew that there were actions and thoughts in the lives of the disciples which were not good. Jesus also knew that being filled with the Holy Spirit would change these habits and attitudes. **John 16.7** says, "But I am telling you the truth; it is better for you that I go away , because if I do not go, the Helper will not come to you. But if I do go away, then I will send him to you. " Jesus also said, "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me. ..." **Acts 1.8**.
We are just like the disciples. We want to follow Jesus, we love Jesus and we believe in Jesus. But there are still sinful ways in our lives. Anger, gossiping, envy, resentment, and seeking to be in control of everything in the church are some of the things that weaken our Christian lives. When temptations come some Christians backslide and leave the Christian way.
The Holy Spirit wants to come into our lives, cleanse us from the sinful nature, and fill us with his love and power. When this happens, the Holy Spirit gives us the power to live victorious Christian lives. Satan is defeated in our lives, and we can live holy and godly lives that are pleasing to God.



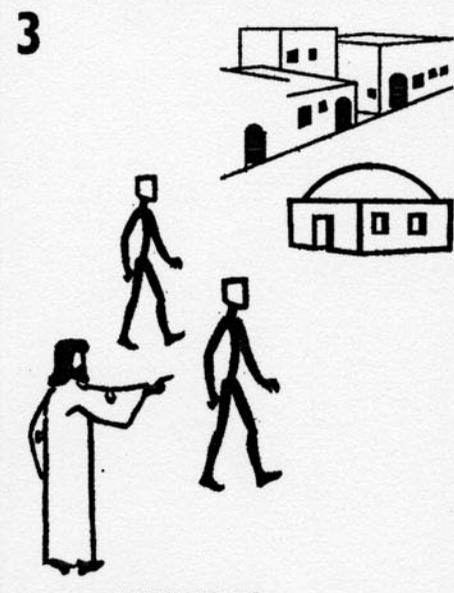
JN 6.69



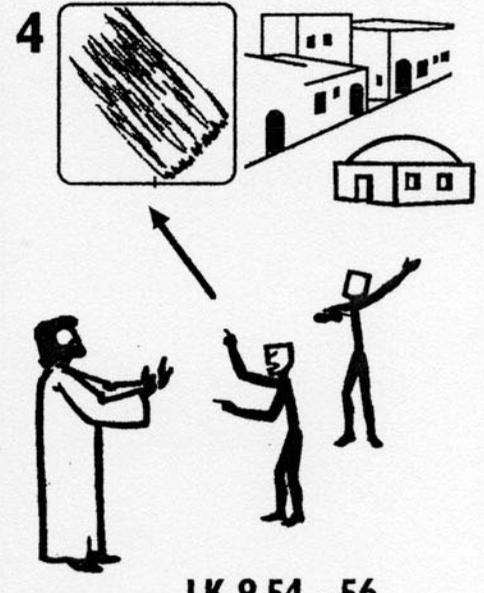
LK 8.26-35



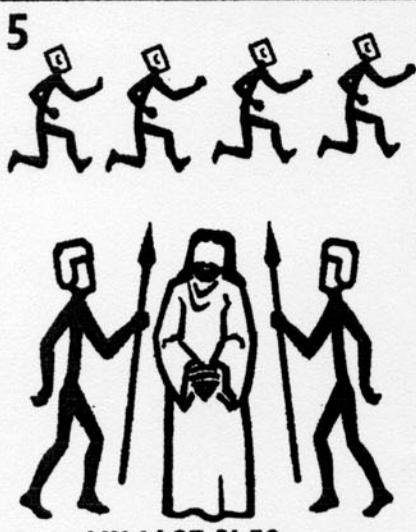
LK 9.46



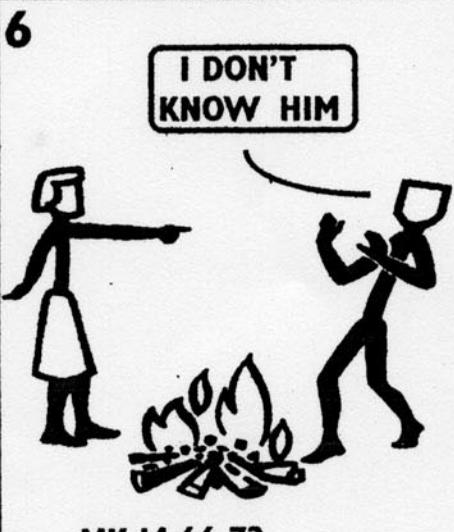
LK 9.52-53



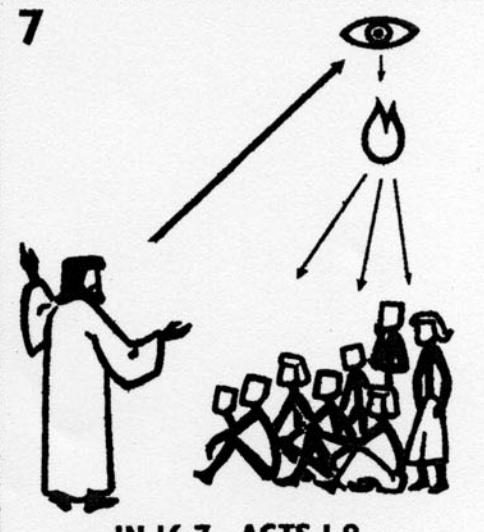
LK 9.54 - 56



MK 14.27-31,50



MK 14.66-72



JN 16.7 ACTS 1.8