

Let's Get Ready

(Jesus spoke with his nervous apprentices a few days before he was killed) ...

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

*I will not leave you as orphans;
I will come to you."*

John 14.15-18

Prayer

Dear Holy Spirit, thank you for coming to help me. Thank you for coming to stay with me forever. You are a very welcome guest in my life.

Sent With

Have you ever seen (or heard about) the TV program 'The Apprentice'? Basically Lord Alan Sugar sends his apprentices off to do business tasks. And isn't very kind to them when they get back. Jesus had apprentices too. But dealt with them a bit differently to Lord Sugar.

Jesus had very low standards when it came to picking apprentices. Everyone was invited to follow Him. You and me included.

Jesus had very high standards when it came to looking after His apprentices. His plan was to always be there with every apprentice. Not just reachable by email Monday to Friday during work hours. But always with you.

Pause and let this sink in.

You. Are. Never. Alone.

You are not sent *away* from Jesus.
You are sent *with* Jesus. Wherever you go.
He said, "*I will not leave you.*"

Song

Come, Thou Almighty King,
Help us Thy Name to sing,
Help us to praise!
Father all glorious,
O'er all victorious,
Come and reign over us,
Ancient of Days!

Come, Holy Comforter,
Thy sacred witness bear
In this glad hour.
Thou Who almighty art,
Now rule in every heart,
And ne'er from us depart,
Spirit of Power!

Prayer

Dear God, please forgive me for the times I have forgotten You are right here with me. Help me, with a little attention, re-focus my mind, my thinking patterns, on You here with me.

God Wraps Around You

How is Jesus with us?

My family has a real soft spot for an Italian-English family we used to know from Leicester. Whenever they would arrive at our house, you knew they had arrived. They whooshed in, tripping over our door mat, laughing and shouting and 100% alive. They obviously loved being together, but they were also each their own unique person.

Jesus and the Father, and the Spirit are like that Italian-English family. They are so connected that when one arrives, all arrive. With a woosh! God is one wonderful being. And yet this one God is three clear persons: God is a living family wrapping around you.

Jesus let his worried apprentices know how he would wrap around them:

Jesus 'will ask the Father, and He will give you another *Helper*, to *be with you* forever, even the Spirit of truth.'

The Spirit is God *with you ... to help you*.
So you don't miss Jesus. Because you are
always together.

Our job is to remember God is with us (by the
Holy Spirit) and to invite God to help us.

May God Give Good to You

May the Spirit of God help you let yourself be
directed. May the Holy Spirit grow a
wonderful character in you: May you keep
becoming loving, joyful, peaceful, patient,
kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-
controlled. No matter what else is happening
around you. May the loving God completely
wrap around you.



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Pentecost God with us