

NOT ALONE!

“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.” (Jn.14:18 NIV) This is the promise Jesus gave to his first disciples when he told them he was leaving. He was returning to his Father in heaven. Sorrow filled their heart. They had been personally involved with Christ in many ways for about 3 years; now he is leaving. **But a promise was given; I will not leave you alone; I will come to you.** That Promise is still good today.

These were men who had forsaken Christ as he was arrested, mistreated and finally crucified. They had their weaknesses as we do. Yet, in less than two months, with the coming of the Holy Spirit, there was the confidence and reality of Christ demonstrated in very real ways in these same men.(See Acts 2-5 and on)

How often we need divine encouragement. Glaring at our weaknesses or the difficulties of life, failure seems so obvious. Hopelessness can drag us down. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Grace. Unmerited favor is given. **He whispers to us; brings a scripture to mind. He gets our thinking aright in turning our thoughts on Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith.** He is the great encourager!

We live in a church world that has its seminaries, large buildings, Hospitals, orphanages, etc. We can intellectually grasp the knowledge of the scriptures and understand the vital truths of the Christian faith, but we still are in need the dynamic reality of Christ in our churches and individual lives.

These first disciples knew Jesus had been raised from the dead. They had the great commission to go into the entire world with the gospel message. **However, Jesus told them to wait for the promise of the Father; the power of the Holy Spirit, making Jesus real to them and others as well.** We still need that reality and power today. Let's not be satisfied with the knowledge of scripture, and activities of Christian service. **The Spirit brings a dynamic to the Christian life that makes it divine; Christ in us!**