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Jesus keeps His promise

‘All this I have spoken to you while still with you but the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have said to you’ John 14 v 25, 26.

I do look forward to my visits to Perry Green. I always receive such a warm welcome and I enjoy hearing all your news. I was therefore really pleased to receive a request from Pam to join you on Pentecost Sunday....that was before we knew anything about a Corona Virus! Since we are self isolating and social distancing I will not be able to enjoy fellowship with you as planned but would like to share a few thoughts with you.

How are you coping with lockdown? John and I have appreciated time spent together, walking across fields and admiring God’s creation. The blossom in the hedgerows has been stunning – the best I have ever seen – or is that because we now have time to ‘stop and stare’. It is a delight to hear the birds singing. Everywhere is quiet and peaceful with fewer cars on the roads and no aeroplanes. BUT many of our elderly friends, who cannot get out, are very lonely.

John and I moved to Silsoe when we retired fifteen years ago and we now attend Amphill Baptist Church. Elderly friends, who attend our Fellowship Lunch and Fellowship Praise, have found lockdown/self isolating very difficult. They are so lonely and long to see people again. They are grateful for the telephone calls and the help with shopping but they really want to get back to normal whatever the new normal might be!

Jesus realised that His disciples would be very lonely when He returned to His Father in heaven so He promised them that God would send a comforter, a helper, a friend, a counsellor and that is what we are remembering on Pentecost Sunday – the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Before Jesus returned to his Father, He instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the power from on high. He promised them a friend, a comforter to equip them for the job He wanted them to do.

Acts 1 v 8 “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.”

When the Holy Spirit came it was powerful and dramatic; a sound of a violent, roaring wind that

filled the house where they were sitting and tongues of fire rested on each of them. They were filled with God's power. They began speaking in different languages, enabled by the Spirit. They were accused of being drunk but Peter presented the gospel message confidently being filled with the Spirit. "Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins may be forgiven and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." We read that 3,000 people became believers that day.

The Holy Spirit that we read about in Acts is the same Holy Spirit who is active in the church and the world today. If you have accepted Jesus as your Saviour and become a follower of Him then you have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you and He will comfort you in the sad times, befriend you when you feel lonely and equip you to reach others with the gospel message when humanly speaking you feel inadequate.

In John 14 v 16 we read "I will ask the Father and He will give you another counsellor to help you and be with you forever – the spirit of truth."

The Holy Spirit is given to us not only so that we may know and experience God's power and love in our lives but also to work in and through us to change both ourselves and the world around us.

As Christians we need to acknowledge the Holy Spirit in our lives and claim His power as we seek to serve Him. Do you remember this hymn?

'Wind, wind blow on me.

When we're weary you console us
When we're lonely you enfold us
When in danger you uphold us
Blessed Holy Spirit

Jesus kept His promise to the disciples. The power of the Holy Spirit came upon them and they were transformed. He makes the same promise to us if we accept Christ as our Saviour and Lord of our lives. Read again Galatians 5 v 22-26. Are the gifts of the Spirit evident in your life? Do you love others? Do you have joy, peace and patience? Are you kind, good and faithful? Are you gentle and show self control?

If you have put your trust in Jesus then there is no need to feel lonely because you have the Holy Spirit as your constant companion, your help in times of trouble and your strength in times of weakness. We used to sing;-

No never alone, No never alone
He promised never to leave you
Never to leave you alone

Hebrews 13 v 5 and 6

'Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you, The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid.'

I will conclude with words from two of my favourite choruses.



Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me
Break me, melt me, mould me, fill me
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me

Thank you O my Father for giving us your Son
And leaving your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.

Diane

