NEVER ALONE

ACTS 1:1-11
1-4-2026

JESUS HAS <u>NOT</u> LEFT US <u>ALONE</u>!
(You must realize that you are <u>never alone</u>! We are not left to ourselves.)

I. **JESUS LEFT US A <u>SPIRITUAL TEACHER</u>** (. . . that we might <u>know</u> His will)
(v. 1-3) (God <u>feeds</u> us His <u>precepts</u> through the Holy Spirit)

II. **JESUS LEFT US A <u>SPIRITUAL COMPANION</u>** (. . . that we might <u>desire</u> His will)
(v. 4-5) (God <u>fulfills</u> His <u>promise</u> of the Holy Spirit)

III. **JESUS LEFT US <u>SPIRITUAL POWER</u>** (. . . that we might <u>do</u> His will)
(v. 6-8) (God <u>fills</u> us with His <u>power</u> by the Holy Spirit)

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INTRODUCTION: The Gospel of Luke describes what Jesus began to do (and John said if all of that was written, the world couldn't contain the books [Jn. 21:25] and now Acts describes what Jesus continued to do by the Holy Spirit.

Acts is a bridge (transition) between the Gospels and the Epistles.

The "Acts of the Apostles" should really be called "the acts of the Holy Spirit."

"Showed Himself alive" - When we gather in worship today, we do not do so in memory of a dead leader; but in the real presence of a living Lord!

"Many infallible proofs" - Jesus talked with the disciples (Lk. 24:13-32), ate with them (Lk. 24:41-43), and showed His scars (Lk. 24:13-32).

NOTE: The disciples expected a literal kingdom (v. 6), and Jesus didn't deny it (v. 7), but they were not to know the exact time.
They were to be occupied during the time before it, and so are we!

"Cloud" - probably the Shekinah, the divine cloud of glory which rested above the tabernacle in the days of Moses, signifying the presence of the Lord (Ex. 40:34). (Kent, p. 25).

At end of Tribulation, Jesus will return with "clouds of glory" (Dan. 7:13; Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7) and will stand upon the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4).

This day (40 days after His death), Jesus went "out of their sight;" but He would not go out of their lives. He would not abandon them, because ten days later His Spirit was to come into the hearts of every one who believed in Him. The Disciples would not be left alone!

ILLUS: of being left alone.

JESUS HAS NOT LEFT US ALONE!

I. Jesus left us a spiritual teacher (that we might know His will)
II. Jesus left us a spiritual companion (that we might desire His will)
III. jesus left us spiritual power (that we might do His will)

See John 16:17 - "Expedient" = better, to your advantage

Jesus is saying in a sense: "John, it is better that my hands should not rest upon your head again, better that you would not be able to lay your head upon this bosom of mine and feel the beating of My heart, better that I do not walk beside you Myself; for if I go not away, the Holy Spirit will not come, and I could not be enjoyed by everyone who believed."

How is it expedient (better) for Christ to go away? His presence by the Spirit, in the heart and life of every believer could not be a reality unless He went to Heaven. Suppose for sake of argument, that Jesus had stayed in the world, living an eternal life on the human level merely, in a physical body. If today He was in Jerusalem, how could we--who live in NYC--fellowship with Him? If he was in NYC, and gathered all of His people into one place here, what about the people in South America, etc.?

But now, by means of the Holy Spirit, Christ is with every believer! He is with every true, Bible-believing local church! He is with "the two of three gathered together." He is with us always (and everywhere) even unto the end of the world!

With the descent of the Holy Spirit, geographical limitations ended! Paul saw this fact when he said: "Wherefore we henceforth know no man after the flesh; even though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now we know Him so (in this way) no more." Peter said, referring to Christ: "Whom, having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory"

Therefore, now <u>everywhere</u> is Christ's power, everywhere is Christ's presence, everywhere Christ is teaching! Why? Because His Spirit is here!

John 14:12 - "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

"Greater works" = not greater in quality, but greater in <u>extent</u>. (Jesus is now everywhere! via the Holy Spirit)

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"Commandments" = what commands? The command to "go into all the world and make disciples . . ." (Mt. 28) The command to stay in Jerusalem until they received the power to do such evangelism.
Without the Holy Spirit we would not <u>understand</u>, <u>remember</u>, or <u>apply</u> the Word of God. We would have no direction, insight, or wisdom.

<u>Read John 14:26; 16:7-15</u>.

I Jn. 2:27 - "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."

I Thes. 1:5 - "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake."

The Bible says: "That the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God . . ."

The day you trust Christ is the day your <u>eyes are opened</u>.

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(God <u>fulfills</u> His <u>promise</u> of the Holy Spirit)

"Being assembled" = lit. "while eating salt with" - or more generally, "eating with."

NOTE: The Holy Spirit came because He was <u>promised</u>, not because He was prayed for (as Pentecostals believe).

When Jesus was in the upper room before His crucifixion, he promised to send the Holy Spirit to take His place in the world (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7).

<u>Read John 14:15-20</u>.

When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, He does!--In the person of the Holy Spirit. We have Christ in us . . ."the hope of glory." We have "Immanuel" ("God with us").

It is a mystery how God is in heaven and yet in each believer! When "a man gives another [man] a piece of bread or a piece of money, he gives it <u>away from</u> himself and has nothing further to do with it. It is not thus with God's gift of the Holy Spirit. No, the Spirit is God. God is in the Spirit who comes to us . . . The gift of the Spirit is

the most personal act of the Godhead; it is the gift of Himself unto us." (A. Murray, "Decision Magazine," May, 1986).

III. JESUS LEFT US <u>SPIRITUAL POWER</u> (. . . that we might <u>do</u> His will) (v. 6-8) (God <u>fills</u> us with His <u>power</u> by the Holy Spirit)

Acts 1:8 is basically a brief outline of the book of Acts.

1.The witness in Jerusalem is recorded in Acts 1-7.
2.The witness in Judea & Samaria is recorded in Acts 8-12
3.The witness to the uttermost part of the earth is recorded in Acts 13-28.

Without the Holy Spirit we would have no <u>power for witnessing</u>.

We need Him to empower us! He is our "spiritual muscle."

The Holy Spirit enables us to speak the word with <u>boldness</u> (Acts 4:31); He gives <u>power</u> to witness (4:33); and <u>grace</u> to endure opposition (v. 33b).

He <u>convicts</u> the lost (5:33); makes witnessing <u>effective</u> (6:10); and He <u>leads</u> us to souls who are open to the Savior (8:29).

NOTE: the <u>comparison</u> between a drunk man and a Spirit-filled man.

Eph. 5:18 - "Be not drunk with wine . . . but be filled with the Spirit."

LK. 1:15 says of John the Baptist: "For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb."

In Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, Peter said in Verses 15-17 (READ)

Lessons:
1.A drunk man is controlled by another power, so is the Spirit-filled man.
2.A drunk man acts like a different person; so does the Spirit-filled man.

EX: A man may be shy, timid, afraid of his own shadow, etc., but if he gets drunk, he gets so talkative you can't shut him up. The drunker he gets, the louder he talks. He gets bold as a lion, etc. He will attempt anything.
Another man may be shy and timid, but if he gets filled with the Holy Spirit, he will start talking out loud in front of crowds and not be embarrassed. (C. Hutson, p. 7)

Ephes. 5:18 - NOTE: It is just as wrong to be drunk as it is not to be filled with the Spirit. (Both are commands - one negative, the other positive).

If Jesus accomplished His mission int he power of the Spirit, what makes us think we can get away without the Spirit's power?

Four ways to hinder the Holy Spirit's work in your life:

1) Resisting Him - Acts 7:51 (unsaved people resist Him)

2) Quenching Him - I Th. 5:19 - "Quench not the Spirit" To quench is to put out a fire.

3) Lying to Him - Ananias & Sapphira (Acts 5)

4) Grieving Him - "Grieve not the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30). To grieve is to cause the pain of sorrow because of sin.

CONCLUSION:

The Holy Spirit is God's answer to:

1) Ignorance (He is our Teacher)
2) Loneliness (He is our Comforting Companion)
3) Weakness (He is our spiritual muscle, our power)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a prayer request. It is a command to be obeyed! (Eph. 5:18)

Do you have a hunger for the fullness of the Holy Spirit? Are you thirsty? I mean really thirsty?

Are you tired of laboring in the flesh? Are you sick of mediocrity? have you had enough of the rut, routine, normal, "everyday Christianity"?

Then yield to God today! Confess your sin and determine to surrender your will everyday to God's control.

He has given you His Spirit. He has not left us alone. The reason we feel so lonely is not God's fault, it is our own.

We have grieved the Holy Spirit; we have quenched Him.

Most of what you think are problems in your life are not problems but symptoms. Your fighting in your home; your lack of love for God, God's children, and lost souls; your lack of joy and fruit, etc. are not problems, but symptoms of not being Spirit-filled.
The same is true of a church.
Our problem is not really lack of faithfulness, lack of giving, lack of soul-winning, or division and strife (cp. I Cor. 3:1), but it is that we need Spirit-filled believers. You don't have problems with Spirit-filled Christians.