

# The Holy Spirit promised – Christ's Ascension



Acts 1:1–11 / John 14:16–17, 26; 16:13–15

*Before Jesus Christ ascended to his Father in heaven, he told his Apostles to remain in Jerusalem and wait for the Comforter, the Holy Spirit. This Spirit, he promised, would remain with them, guide and accompany them. It would provide them with the strength and power to be his messengers and witnesses.*

36

The children learn that before returning to his Father in heaven,  
Jesus Christ promised to send a Comforter.

**A**fter his resurrection, Jesus Christ appears to his disciples on several occasions over a period of forty days. On one such occasion, he even appeared to a group of five hundred of his followers and several times to his Apostles. He gives the Apostles final instructions concerning their commission. All these encounters bring great joy and new strength, but after each appearance there is an even greater longing and waiting for the next one.

When the Lord Jesus appears to his disciples on the fortieth day after his resurrection, they do not realize what an important day has dawned. The disciples respectfully gather around their Lord. Once more he tells them of the kingdom of God. He instructs them to remain in Jerusalem until they have been filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. This Comforter, the Spirit of truth, will testify of Christ so that they will be able to act in his name. He will equip them for their great task. The Lord Jesus addresses them with great seriousness: “You will receive the power of the Holy Ghost and you will be my witnesses.”

1

Having spoken these words, the Lord stretches out his hands and, whilst blessing those present, is lifted up before their eyes into heaven. He is raised up until a bright cloud

envelops him and he can no longer be seen. All have fallen down on their knees in worship. Now they gaze up into the heavens wide-eyed. No one moves, no one speaks a word. What a wondrous miracle they have just witnessed! They know that their Lord and Master is now returning to God, his heavenly Father. How long they remain kneeling there in wonder and awe, no one knows. Finally they get up. They notice two men in white robes standing beside them who address the amazed disciples: “Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

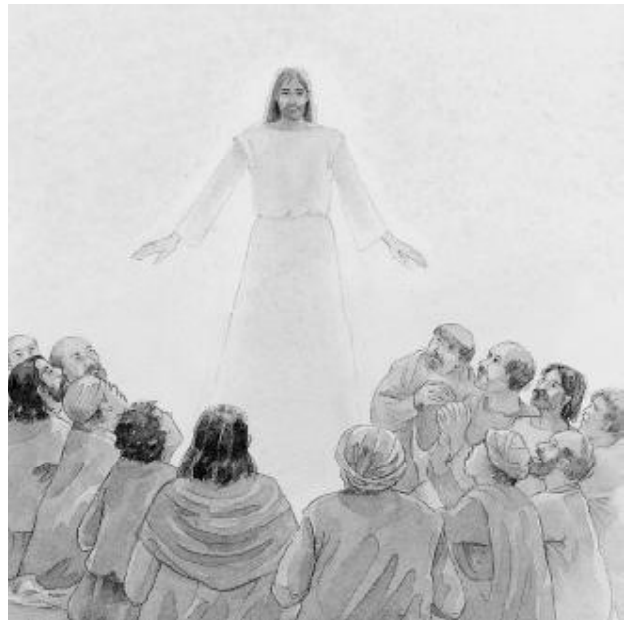
The disciples are too moved to find words for what they have just witnessed. But they sense the greatness and power of God. The Lord Jesus has now finally returned to his Father in heaven, yet he will return as he has promised them—a promise the angels have once more confirmed. The Lord is not leaving them behind all alone. Soon a Comforter will be sent. They remain in Jerusalem and wait patiently for the Comforter of whom Christ has spoken with such ardour.

Joyfully they remember the wonderful farewell and everything which Jesus Christ has told them before his death about the coming of the Comforter. John feels happy when he repeats Jesus' words: “I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive,

because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. He is the Spirit of truth who shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

2/3

67



*Before Jesus Christ ascended to his Father in heaven, he said to his Apostles: "You will receive the power of the Holy Ghost and will be my witnesses."  
Jesus Christ is active through the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit.*

- 1 Let the children describe the picture.**
- 2 The faithful were given two important promises. The children formulate these in their own words. (God sends the Holy Spirit to the people as Comforter. Jesus Christ will return in the same way as he ascended into heaven.)**
- 3 We discuss the Lord's return with the children. What does the day of the first resurrection mean for us? How do we prepare ourselves for this day?**