

"ALIVE IN FAITH, RIGHT HERE!"
THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - MAY 21, 2017
ACTS 17:22-31; 1 PETER 3:13-22; JOHN 14:15-21

Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

It seems like sooner or later, time for one thing passes, and we are left to move onto the next. Even for our God, there was a time to create, to lead out of slavery, to announce prophecies, and for God to fulfill such prophecies - for The Christ, The Anointed One, to be born. A time for God, at God's time, for The Christ to be arrested, put on trial, and crucified, and then to rise from the dead. Time just keeps moving along, and God just keeps on moving along to the next thing. Even after Jesus was raised from the dead, the time would come for Jesus to move along, to ascend into heaven, so Jesus gave his followers an Advocate: The Holy Spirit. Indeed, one day God will move along to the next thing, and Christ will come again. It must have been easy for the disciples to feel abandoned when Jesus ascended, but they were not left on their own, and neither are we. Will the time ever come when The Holy Spirit abandons us, leaves us to fail, leaves us alone, does not give us what we need, causing us to worry about what lies before us? Not now! Not ever! Will the time ever come when The Holy Spirit is not in our midst, alive, right here, faithfully giving us grace? Not now! Not ever!

1. Would God bring us to this point, provide us with forgiveness, salvation, and then abandon us? Not now! Not ever! John 14:18
 - A. We are not saved, so that we would be left orphaned.
 - B. Even when it can feel like, 'where do we go from here;' trust God is faithful, alive, right here, for The One who has brought you this far, has farther for you still to go!

2. Do you ever wonder if you are being set up for failure? Not now! Not ever! 1 Peter 3:17-18
 - A. You have been claimed by Christ. Do you usually put your name on things that do not matter to you? Neither does God!
 - B. Trust God is faithful, alive, right here, for being baptized in the name of The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit is a gift that will never, ever, fail us.

3. Do you ever feel all alone? Like no one understands you? Like no one really knows you? Like you have all kinds of people around you, and yet you are alone? Not now! Not ever! Acts 17:24,27; John 14:16-17
 - A. Making God first, trusting God's certainty, when others tell us to let go of God in the midst of uncertainty, can leave us alone.
 - B. The Advocate is faithful, alive, right here, with us forever!

4. Do we need to worry about the future, our future? Should we worry about what is before us, or what is coming next? Not now! Not ever! Acts 17:31; 1 Peter 3:14-15; John 14:17
 - A. We have an assurance, we do not fear, we are not intimidated; for we are not alone.
 - B. Worry wears us down. The Spirit is faithful, alive, right here, giving power and hope and grace!

5. Is The Holy Spirit satisfied? Not now! Not ever! The Holy Spirit is faithfully still alive, right here, on the move, blessing us with power and grace! Acts 17:24, 30-31; 1 Peter 3:18-20; John 14:16-17, 20-21