

MAY 19, 2024

# "Accompanied"

Scripture: John 14:15-18, 25-26



# Accompanied

Pentecost Sunday

## AUTHOR

John, one of the original 12 disciples of Jesus, is the author. A fisherman by trade, he was the brother of James and the son of Zebedee. John wrote his gospel around AD 85-90 to new Christians and non-Christians who were searching. His purpose in writing was to prove that Jesus is the Son of God and that all who believe in Him will have eternal life. Jesus' love is a main theme in John's gospel. John also wrote John 1, 2 & 3 and Revelation.

## CONTEXT

The word Pentecost comes from the Greek word, "pentekoste" which means 50. We celebrate Pentecost 50 days after Easter. Today is Pentecost Sunday when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. Some of the symbols of Pentecost are: wind (in Hebrew, Ruach, pronounced roo-akh, also means spirit or breath.), and fire, representing the Holy Spirit. In biblical times, Pentecost was also known as the Feast of Weeks or Feast of Shavuot, held 50 days after Passover. Our scripture passage today takes place during the Last Supper and is part of what is called the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-17) when Jesus gave his disciples final instructions to prepare them for his death and resurrection. In this passage, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.

## ENCOURAGEMENT

When we become a Christian, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read John 14:15-18 and 25-26. What does Jesus tell the disciples they must do if they love him?
2. Who does Jesus say he will pray and ask the Father to give them?
3. Depending on the biblical translation, the Spirit is also referred to as counselor (In Greek, parakletos), advocate (combines ideas of comfort and counsel), comforter, and encourager. How long will the Holy Spirit remain with the disciples?
4. What truths about the Holy Spirit can you glean from John 14:16 -17, John 14:26, John 15:26, John 16:8, John 16:13, and John 16:14.

In his book, *Pauses for Pentecost*, author Trevor Hudson, in considering how we can live today as Easter people filled with God's Spirit, asks these questions which you may want to consider:

5. How do we live, in the midst of our relationships and daily work, a life permeated by the present companionship of the risen and ascended Jesus?
6. What does it mean to be genuinely empowered by his Spirit in a world characterized by painful divisions, immeasurable human suffering, and the relentless devastation of creation itself?
7. How do we respond and react to bad news, both personal and social, in a world in which God has raised Christ from the dead?

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