



Jesus was in the world for such a short time, 33 years in all, 3 of which he spent with his disciples teaching them and all those he met about his Father and his kingdom. He preached to thousands and healed those who came to him for help.

Jesus knew he was leaving soon to die upon a cross and to be with his Father, so he is now telling his disciples that he is going away, 'The world will not see me any more,' he said, but he promises them that they will see him. Then he says that even though he is gone from them he will not leave them like orphans feeling desolate with empty hearts. He would not leave them alone without help when needed, without guidance for their ministry, without purpose in their lives, but that he will come to them. Jesus wanted his disciples to know that he wasn't abandoning them, so he reveals to them God's plan for when he is no longer with them, a plan to send another Person, whom he calls the Paraclete, the Holy Spirit, who will make all things possible. The "Paraclete," will come to take his place when he goes to the Father. The Greek word Parakletos means, 'someone who is called to be at your side.' God the Father will send someone to be at our side. The word Paraclete also translates as 'helper,' counsellor, strengthener, advocate and comforter.'

The Holy Spirit of God would come to the disciples to guide them, to give them strength, and to bind them together.

How could they understand Jesus words, and how would he come to them?

The disciples had to learn that the Holy Spirit had been at work since the beginning of time, and was one with the Father and the Son, the Holy Trinity together. We read this in Genesis 1:2 , 'In the beginning the Spirit of God moved over the waters.' Sent in the name of Jesus the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples at Pentecost, when they were filled with the consuming presence of God. The Spirit's power enabled them to remember everything Jesus had taught them and equipped them for their ministry on earth.

How do we receive the Holy Spirit and how can we feel consumed by the presence of God within? For those who believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, we have the most precious promise that he made, that he would not leave us like orphans deprived by his death but fill us with his presence. Because of his promise we can call upon the power of the Spirit for help in difficult times. We pray through the Spirit, and when we don't know what to pray or can't pray then the Spirit prays on our behalf. The Spirit is 'called to be by our side' to comfort us and bring peace to troubled hearts. The Spirit helps us to feel the presence of God within us and whenever we reach out to him he will come to us.



Holy Spirit, Come! Dwell in our hearts, direct our footsteps and lighten the path that leads us to you, Amen.