



## promise of the holy spirit

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In his book, *The Pursuit of God*, A.W. Tozer claims that “God’s presence is the central fact of Christianity.” There are seasons in our life when it is obvious that God is near – guiding, providing, illuminating truth, filling our hearts with His love, and empowering us to do what we would otherwise be unable to do. However, there are other periods where His presence seems far from us – when we are unsure of where God is and how He is working. What do we do when we don’t feel God’s presence? At those times, it is important to know the promises of God so we can cling to those truths (let’s not forget the choo-choo train with the cow-catcher on the front – that when feelings are in control you’re going downhill and backward!). One of the promises Jesus makes is that His Holy Spirit is with us. He assures us we are not alone when He says, “I am with you, even to the end of the age”. This is what our Scripture focuses on today.

### read

Matthew 28:16-20  
John 16:5-10  
Ephesians 5:18-20

### in addition...

Watch the Bible Project Video: Holy Spirit <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/holy-spirit/>

### reflect & journal

1. All of us are familiar with the Great Commission Jesus gives us at the end of Matthew, but what is the promise that Jesus gives us with it? How does this impact our role in the task Jesus is calling us to?
2. This passage in John is taken from a longer address that Jesus is giving to his disciples on the night just before He was betrayed. It is, in essence, His final address to them. Specifically in verse 7, what is Jesus saying about His leaving and the Holy Spirit’s (or “Advocate” in some translations) coming?
3. In the Ephesians passage, Paul is painting a picture of the Spirit filled life. What is attractive about this picture? What might be surprising about this description?
4. What do these passages have to say about our experience with the Holy Spirit? What promises are we given that we can cling to, even beyond what we are feeling in a given day? Why is that sometimes difficult to do?
5. How can we live out of these promises in our day to day life? How does this change the way we think about God’s presence with us?

### pray

- One of the practices that can help remind us of the Spirit’s presence with us is to light a candle during our quiet time or while we pray. There is nothing magical about it, but as we look at the flame, it can serve as a symbolic yet tangible reminder that the Spirit is indeed with us, and we can be confident in that promise. I encourage you to try it now!