



Ask, Father James:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (paraklētōs) to be with you forever (John 14:16).

Next Sunday is Ascension Sunday. Before the ascension of Jesus, Jesus makes the disciples a promise: “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (paraklētōs) to be with you forever.” This Jesus' promise of the “Gift of the Holy Spirit,” this outpouring of the Spirit will be experienced on the Day of Pentecost, and it will remain with us forever.

The Holy Spirit is Jesus' way of staying with us forever because in v. 18, Jesus says: “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you...” This means that; When the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost he came as the Spirit of Christ not just in the sense that he was sent/poured out by the ascended Christ, but also in the sense that he came as a ‘personal representative agent’ of Jesus; almost as a ‘substitute’ for Jesus, (another advocate), as One who was going to continue the ministry of Christ to his people and to the world (to be with us forever). The Holy Spirit, the Paraclete is just as present in us and with us today as he was present in the first-generation disciples and whoever listens to the Paraclete today, will be listening to Jesus.

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