

NO LONGER STUDY GUIDE

“Do The Math”

1. READ

Scripture: Acts 1:9-14 New King James Version (NKJV)

⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰ They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ¹¹ “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the hill called the Mount of Olives, a Sabbath day’s walk from the city. ¹³ When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Scripture Revelation 11:15 (b)

The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”

Scripture 1 Corinthians 15: 24-26

Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.

Let’s Begin with a math problem.

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Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: 1 Thessalonians 4:15 – 16, Revelation 11:15(b), 1 Corinthians 15: 24-26, Romans 8:26-27

2. REFLECT

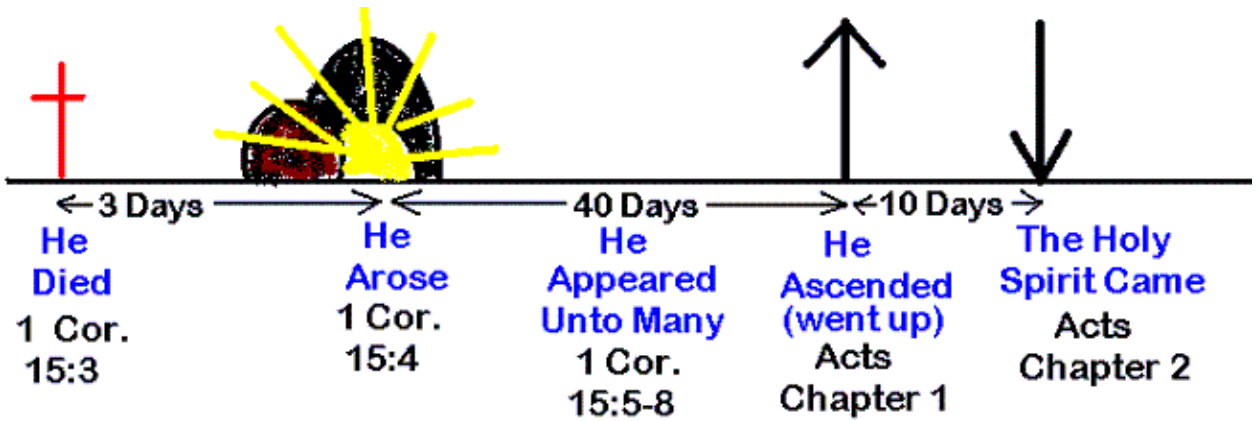
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Pastor Watley is concluding his sermon series “No Longer” this week. Pastor Watley has shared and taught us about the days of Jesus after His resurrection during this series. This series is designed to encourage us to trust God with the “no longer” moments of our lives. God will always show up in our lives even when it seems like we’re alone because we are never alone. God will never leave us nor forsake us because we are now “no longer” the person we were in the past. Today is Pentecost, and this sermon today is to help us understand Pentecost more fully and its role in our lives as believers. Pastor’s sermon title for today is “Do The Math,” in his introduction, he encourages us to think differently about statements that people make or actions they have taken in their lives. We should “Do The Math” and make sure that people demonstrate the changes they are claiming. Pastor is helping us to realize that we should also “Do The Math” when it comes to this scripture in Acts that lead up to Pentecost Sunday.

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Pastor shares this image with us:



This image shows the “Math” or timeline between when Jesus was crucified to the day of Pentecost. The Pente in Pentecost represents 50 which is the number of days between Jesus being crucified and Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit upon God’s people. At this point, Pastor shares that we’re only 40 days in and had ten days left to go.

The question, “What if everyone didn’t wait for the Holy Spirit and Jesus to come? What if they left early because they didn’t know when it was going to happen? They only knew that it would happen because that is what Jesus told them. In our society, we have a patience issue. We want things quick and fast. However, Pastor reminds us that “good things come to those who wait.” If any of them left early, they missed out on this experience with the Holy Spirit, and if we aren’t patient with God, we can also miss out.

Some might not have been patient even though it was only ten more days; they didn’t know it was ten days. In the same way, we might be waiting on God for something, and we don’t know how long it will be or how quickly it might happen. We need to wait on the Lord and trust in God’s Holy Spirit. Those that did wait, Pastor shared that we’re just passively waiting. They went to the upper room, and they prayed while they waited. The key is “Prayer,” Pastor shares these prayer thoughts:

- Prayer is not just me talking to God, butt God talking to God
- Prayer is spiritual training and preparation
- Prayer is spiritual warfare
- Prayer is spiritual communication
- Prayer is sweet communion with God
- Prayer is accessing the heavenly sanctuary
- Prayer is your right and your weapon

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Prayer allowed them to wait, and then the Holy Ghost showed up in the room as tongues of fire came onto each person. Pentecost is about us receiving the Holy Ghost to do the work and access the power that Jesus left for us.

3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- i How would you have waited for Pentecost?
- i What ways can you allow the Holy Ghost to use you now?

Discussion Questions

- i What do you think the others were saying about the Holy Ghost and how it worked on the behalf of the disciples?
- i What more can the Holy Spirit do now through you and those that you know?