

## Jesus Goes to Heaven:

In my first book I told you, Theophilus, about everything Jesus began to do and teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven after giving his chosen apostles further instructions through the Holy Spirit. <sup>3</sup> During the forty days after he suffered and died, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.

<sup>4</sup> Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. <sup>5</sup> John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him. As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" Acts 1:1-9

### **Jesus came back after he died because that is what he does. He walks with. He lives with.**

He reminded them that our thoughts are not like his...

<sup>8</sup> "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the LORD. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. <sup>9</sup> For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways and my thoughts higher than your thoughts Isaiah 55:8-9

<sup>33</sup> Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! Romans 11:33

He reminded us that we are trouble makers...

<sup>9</sup> "The human heart is the most deceitful of all things, and desperately wicked. Who really knows how bad it is?

<sup>10</sup> But I, the LORD, search all hearts and examine secret motives. I give all people their due rewards, according to what their actions deserve." Jeremiah 17:9-10

He reminded them that there are real consequences but he is willing to forgive...

<sup>8</sup> "For I, the LORD, love justice. I hate robbery and wrongdoing. Isaiah 61:8

<sup>5</sup> O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help. Psalm 86:5

And that He is willing to make us new...

And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God. Ezekiel 11:19-20

...By His own sacrifice

When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. Isaiah 53:11

### **From Enemies to Friends → God is very involved in our lives**

He raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus. So God can point to us in all future ages as examples of the incredible wealth of his grace and kindness toward us, as shown in all he has done for us who are united with Christ Jesus. Ephesians 2:4-7

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. <sup>29</sup> Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. <sup>30</sup> For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light." Matthew 11:28

### **The promise of the Holy Spirit: Jesus left but He did not leave us empty handed**

<sup>22</sup> But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! Galatians 5:22-23

<sup>25</sup> Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. Galatians 5:25

Your life is a witness, your testimony is a witness, your actions are a witness, your words are a witness.

<sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

<sup>18</sup> Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20