



BETTER THIS WAY, PART TWO: THE GOD WHO IS ALWAYS WITH US

We all know that sickening feeling of being separated from your child or parent in a big crowd. Looking for that familiar face in a sea of unknown faces is a sickening feeling. One of our greatest fears is being alone without anyone, but for the Jesus follower, God gives us a promise today.

BIG IDEA: The Holy Spirit is always with us and never leaves believers.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever gotten separated from your parent when you were a child or lost your own children as an adult? How did that feel?
2. Chris said, “*How the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament (before Jesus) was vastly different than how the Holy Spirit works now.*” Can you name some of those differences?
3. One of the biggest differences how the Holy Spirit worked in the Old Testament was that *the Spirit was given selectively and temporarily to certain individuals, and the Spirit would come and go from a person’s life.* This is illustrated in Psalm 51:10-12 after David sinned when he prayed...

¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a loyal spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not banish me from your presence, and don’t take your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and make me willing to obey you. [Psalms 51:10-12 \(NLT\)](#)

4. David asks for 6 things from God in these 3 verses. 2 are framed as negative, and 4 as positive. What are they?
5. Because David sinned against God (*Psalm 51:4*), the Holy Spirit could have left David forever, similar to what happened to King Saul, David’s predecessor (*1 Samuel 16:13-14*). But Christians today never have to pray for God not to remove the Holy Spirit. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Ephesians 1:3-14 from the New American Standard Bible.](#)

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, ⁴ just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love ⁵ He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, ⁶ to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace ⁸ which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight ⁹ He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him ¹⁰ with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him ¹¹ also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, ¹² to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. ¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory. [Ephesians 1:3-14 \(NASB\)](#)

6. We’re reading Ephesians 1 out of the NASB because it is easier to spot the repeated phrase *in Him* or *in Christ*. How many times do you see *in Him* or *in Christ* in these verses?
7. In verse 3, Paul writes that Jesus has blessed us with every spiritual blessing, and then lists those blessings. In your own words, describe the blessings found *in Him*.

8. Where do you see the Trinity in these verses? What blessings does God the Father give in verses 4-6? Jesus the Son in verses 7-12? The Holy Spirit in verses 13-14?
9. What activities and descriptive words relate to the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit? What does this show you about the triune God?
10. [Now, read Ephesians 1:3-14 from the New Living Translation.](#)

³ All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. ⁴ Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵ God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. ⁶ So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. ⁷ He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. ⁸ He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to fulfill his own good plan. ¹⁰ And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth. ¹¹ Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have received an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance, and he makes everything work out according to his plan. ¹² God’s purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God. ¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. ¹⁴ The Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

[Ephesians 1:3-14 \(NLT\)](#)

11. Which version was easier to understand? What jumped out at you reading this same passage from a different translation?
12. Just as the chocolate squeezed into milk becomes a permanent part of the milk, so does the Holy Spirit become a permanent resident in each of us when we’re saved. The name that teaches us this reality is the Seal, and we read about it in Ephesians 1:13-14. Paul says what about the Spirit in verse 14? What is the inheritance and promise Paul is speaking about?
13. [With your Bible or Bible App, read Romans 8:35, 38-39.](#)

³⁵ Can anything ever separate us from Christ’s love? ³⁸ And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. ³⁹ No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

[Romans 8:35, 38-39 \(NLT\)](#)

14. The reality is, once we are in Him, nothing can separate us from His love, because we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. There are different ways you can use the word seal. Google the following: Vacuum-Seal, Seal on a document, and the seal on the outside of a document. What concepts do these convey? A seal can provide ownership, authorization, permanency, and security. How do all of these apply when it comes to our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit?

MOVING FORWARD

Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ once we’ve been saved, which means you and I can live with the assurance and the security of the seal. Since God is the One who sealed you, only He has the authority to remove that seal, and He’s made it clear that it will not be removed until the day of redemption. God has secured both your salvation and your redemption.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Nothing will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:39