

1. Our LifeLines verse for April 22 will be 2 Corinthians 5:17!
2. Bring a friend!

## LifeLines April 15, 2024

### Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

#### John 16:7

**Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.**

#### WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

1 Peter 3:15, But in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

#### CONTEXT

John Chapter 16 continues Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples. He knew the days ahead of them would be dark days. It would be a frightening time for His followers. He knew the outcome would be powerful & world changing, but to convey all this to the disciples would be an overwhelming task.

**DIFFERENT VERSIONS** (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV or to versions shown below.)

#### AMP

But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor –Counselor, Strengthenener, Standby) will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him (the Holy Spirit) to you (to be in close fellowship with you).

#### ASV

Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you

## **CEB**

I assure you that it is better for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Companion won't come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you.

## **CEV**

But I tell you I am going to do what is best for you. This is why I am going away. The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send Him to you.

## **ERV**

Let Me assure you, it is better for you that I go away. I say this because when I go away I will send the Helper to you. But if I did not go, the Helper would not come.

## **NIV**

But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

## **TLB**

But the fact of the matter is that it is best for you that I go away, for if I don't, the Comforter won't come. If I do, He will – for I will send Him to you.

## **SELAH**

### **BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE**

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth...* Often Jesus began statements with “Truly, truly, I tell you,” or “I tell you the truth...” Jesus cannot do otherwise. He came from God, the Father of Truth, & from the Spirit of Truth. The truth is found in the person, character & nature of the Godhead. Knowing & speaking the Word of truth is what delivers us. It supercedes all authority, reason, & intellect.

Jesus reminded them He spoke in truth because He wanted them to make a purposeful effort to trust Him regarding what lay ahead. Speaking God's Word in faith brings the Holy Spirit to action.

*it is to your advantage that I go away...* Even though Jesus had told the disciples what was ahead, they didn't fully comprehend. How could they? How could it be to their advantage that Jesus would be betrayed, arrested, beaten, denied, mocked, sentenced to death, nailed to a cross, die alongside common criminals, & His entire ministry stopped? They *couldn't* know!

Jesus knew He must return to the Father. That was the plan from the beginning. He couldn't stay here forever. He had other responsibilities. (Like what?) His followers needed to depend on the help & influence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We do, too. Some of us still struggle with pursuing our own ideas, plans, projects without consulting God about *His* ideas, ways & plans. God, the Spirit, is with us 24/7, always ready when we reach out to Him. He guides, comforts, consults, intervenes & intercedes in order to bring glory to God. He also glorifies Christ, His resurrection, His defeat over sin & Satan on the cross.

Jesus, in His human form, could only be in one place at a time. The Holy Spirit would be with every believer all the time. Do we appreciate what a treasured Resource & Friend we have in the Holy Spirit? He *is* God!

***for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you...*** Did you ever wonder *why* the Holy Spirit couldn't come while Jesus was here? Why does God work the way He does?

The most basic ministry of the Holy Spirit is to glorify God - the Father & God - the Son. That couldn't be done while Jesus was still living. The death, resurrection, ascension & the established ruling power of Jesus had to be accomplished first. The Spirit brought "Christ-glorifying" power, the glorifying of the gospel & gospel message & glorification of the risen Christ. We are to access all the Holy Spirit enables so that we, too, can proclaim & glorify our risen Savior & Heavenly Father.

The work of the Holy Spirit & His power happened on the basis of the blood of Jesus. In Hebrews 9:22, last week, we read, "& without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." Because of the shedding of Jesus' blood & His obedience to the Father, the Holy Spirit provided the ability for each Christian to have constant, personal, immediate, indwelling contact with God. Rather than rely on external sources, believers can focus on the voice of God *inside* their hearts, because He lives in us.

***but if I go, I will send Him to you...*** After Jesus' death, resurrection & ascension, He didn't waste time sending the Holy Spirit to His disciples. He even instructed them to wait, to stay in Jerusalem, until they received the Holy Spirit.

Christ had to leave this world so His followers (we) would learn to depend on the influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. On our behalf, He guides, judges & speaks in order to bring glory to God.

## **SELAH**

**RELATED VERSES** (Verses are NRSV unless otherwise stated. What verses come to your mind?)

Genesis 1:2 NIV: Now the earth was formless & empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, & the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

Exodus 13:21, The Lord went in front of them in a pillar of cloud by day, to lead them along the way, & in a pillar of fire by night, to give them light, so that they might travel by day & by night.

Numbers 23:19a, God is not a human being that He should lie.

Psalms 51:11, Do not cast me away from Your Presence, & do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.

Isaiah 63:10a-b, But they rebelled & grieved His Holy Spirit; therefore He became their enemy.

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (excerpts), The days are surely coming says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel & the house of Judah...I will put My law within them, & I will write it on their hearts; & I will be their God, & they shall be My people...they shall all know Me...for I will forgive their iniquity, & remember their sin no more.

Ezekiel 36:27, I will put My Spirit within you, & make you follow My statutes & be careful to observe My ordinances.

Luke 24:49, “And see, I am sending upon you what My Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

John 6:63, “It is the Spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit & life.”

John 7:39, Now He said this about the Spirit, which believers in Him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 8:32, “And you will know the truth, & the truth will make you free.”

John 12:31-32, “Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to Myself.”

John 14:6, Jesus said to him, “I am the way, & the truth, & the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

John 14:16, “And I will ask the Father, & He will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.”

John 14:17, “This is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him or knows Him. You know Him, because He abides with you, & He will be in you.”

John 14:25-26, “I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything, & remind you of all that I have said to you.”

John 15:26-27, “When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify on My behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

John 16:8, “And when He comes, He will prove the world wrong about sin (**convict the world of sin**) & righteousness & judgment.”

John 16:13-14, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own, but will speak whatever He hears, & He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, because He will take what is mine & declare it to you.”

John 16:20, Very truly, I tell you, you will weep & mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn to joy.

John 17:4-5, “I glorified You on earth by finishing the work that You gave Me to do. So now, Father, glorify Me in Your own Presence with the glory that I had in Your Presence before the world existed.”

Acts 1:4, While staying with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father.

Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you:”

1 Corinthians 2:14, Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God’s Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, & they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.

2 Corinthians 3:17, Now the Lord is the Spirit, & where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

2 Corinthians 3:18, And all of us with unveiled faces seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 5:7, For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Corinthians 13:5, Examine yourselves to see whether you are living in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you? – unless, indeed, you fail to meet the test.

Ephesians 2:18: For through Him both of us (Jews as well as Gentiles) have access in one Spirit to the Father.

## **SUMMARY**

Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit was present in the Old Testament & throughout Jesus’ ministry. The Old Testament verses above are just a sampling.

Jesus’ followers didn’t understand how there could be *anything* good about His leaving them. They would be fearful, sad & lost without Him. Still, Jesus had to fulfill His commitment of the atonement for sin. Christ could not be glorified for something that hadn’t taken place. His death, resurrection & ascension were necessary for that.

As long as Jesus was with the disciples, the object of their faith would continue being in Him alone. That meant they would always depend on Him to direct them, answer their questions & meet their needs & the needs of others. They needed to graduate from dependence on Jesus, the Son of Man, because what awaited them was so much more. The indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit would be with them always, just as it is for us. God is now available & accessible to *all* believers *all the time!*

**CONCLUSION** - Enlighten others with the revelation of this LifeLine study.

There has been a plan since ‘the fall’ in the Garden of Eden to reconcile humanity to God; a plan to bring humanity into God’s *own* family. This was the plan: Jesus must complete the work His Father gave Him to do on earth. He had to sacrifice Himself for the sins & sin nature of the whole world. He had to rise from the dead. He had to ascend to the Father’s throne. He had to do all of this before the Advocate could come. The conviction of sin, righteousness, & judgment followed the finished work of Christ (read John 16:8-11).

The Son of God *had* to be glorified before the Spirit was given to all. Humanity had to ascend to heaven before the Spirit could be given to humanity on earth. This revelation of *saving truth* had to be complete before “inspire-ation” came. This inspiration is the *breath of God*. It has been given through the Holy Spirit as the breath of life into the spirit of man, into *our spirits*, to quicken & enliven us. This receiving of the Spirit *is* being born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent His Son,  
born of a woman, born under the law, so that we might receive  
adoption as children. And because you are children, God sent the Spirit  
of His Son into our hearts, crying,  
“Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child,  
& if a child then also an heir, through God.  
Galatians 4:4-7*

For Extra Credit read Hebrews Chapter 10. For Extra, Extra Credit, read it aloud.  
For Extra, Extra, Extra Credit, read it aloud to someone else!

**SCRIPTURE IS OUR –**

***LifeLine!***

*Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage  
that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you;  
but if I go, I will send Him to you.*

John 16:7

## Let Scripture be a *LifeLine* for you.

Take a few minutes to think about this LifeLine & our discussion.

1. Write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:

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2. Write one thing you feel compelled to share with someone? Whom will it be?

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3. How & when will you share with that person?

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