



24/7

A Newsletter for the Christian Home



On Our Own . . . *but not really*

This month, as the family of God, we celebrate two significant events in the life of the Church: Ascension and Pentecost. Ascension is the farewell moment for our Lord Jesus on this earth! His mission here was accomplished and it was time to return to the Father and prepare a place for us. As Jesus ascended into the sky, the disciples had to realize that they were now on their own. Their Lord, their leader, their teacher was no longer with them! What would they do? Where would they go? What would life without Jesus look like? It had to be a time of bewilderment!

Farewells and departures can be a tough time for families. Consider . . .

- young children going to that first day of preschool or kindergarten.
- kids going off to summer camp for a week.
- students going on an overnight study trip with their school.
- teenagers going on a weekend retreat with their church.
- teenagers going away for a band competition or sports camp.
- a college student going several hundred miles away to school.
- your newly married child heading off with their spouse to a life of their own.

These times of separation, and so many others, are not always times in which to rejoice. As parents, we can feel a tremendous sense of loss. There is quiet where there once was activity. There is an eerie still that can leave us parents very unsettled.

Perhaps the disciples felt similar feelings upon the ascension of Jesus.

However, 10 days later the disciples found out what was in store for them! They were gathered together in one place and suddenly the Holy Spirit came upon them! It became that "reality check" moment when the disciples were on

their own to do this thing called "church." And do it they did!

But were they really on their own? As we think about that Pentecost day, we are inspired by the sermon of Peter . . . we are amazed by the disciples speaking in a variety of languages . . . we are amused by the accusation of the disciples having had too much wine . . . we are encouraged by the witness of the disciples and the many baptisms that occurred that day, "adding to their number about three thousand." The disciples were really going about the work that Jesus called them to do!

But, did they do it on their own? Not really. It all began with the visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples who empowered them to do such things. Even though Jesus was gone, they were not really on their own—they had the Holy Spirit. This group of quite ordinary men was doing the extraordinary! Even though Jesus was not with them, HIS Spirit was with them. They could do these things only through the power of the Holy Spirit.

As our children grow to be "on their own," we hope they are never fully alone on their own—from us as family and from our Lord Jesus Christ. Even though the kids may be gone from home, it is possible for parents to have a continuing "spirit" of support and care, even though there may not always be a physical presence. We want to stay in touch! We want to continue to be a part of their lives—even though we may be apart from them.

It is our privilege to have this kind of ongoing support and empowerment from our Heavenly Father, which assures us that even though we are on our own, we are never really alone. Never!



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