

‘The Holy Spirit: The One Who Walks and Talks With Us’

Some time ago, ‘*What Would Jesus Do [W.W.J.D.]?*’ became a popular Christian slogan and was printed on numerous bracelets, t-shirts, coffee cups.... The purpose of the *W.W.J.D* campaign was to challenge Christians to always consider how Jesus might respond in our various life-situations. However, Jesus has left us with a far more powerful and effective reminder of how he wants us to live our lives as his followers. Just before his death, Jesus told his disciples that he would soon be leaving them for a time. But he comforted them with the promise that he would send another Helper in his place to be with them (and us). Jesus said,

"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor¹ will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. (John 16:5 – 7, NIV)

Jesus went on to explain that the Counsellor he was speaking of is the Holy Spirit.

1. According to John 14:15 – 17, to whom does Christ send the Holy Spirit and how is he with us?
2. Read John 16:7. Why is it our advantage that Christ has gone away (for a time) but has given us the Holy Spirit in his absence?

Read the following Bible passages and reflect upon how the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives is similar to the role Jesus played in the lives of his early disciples:

- John 15:26, 14:25 – 26, 16:13 – 14
- John 16:8 – 11
- Acts 1:6 - 11
- Romans 8:22 – 27
- Revelation 22:16 - 20

¹ The original (Greek) word for ‘Comforter’ is ‘Parakletos’ which literally means ‘One who stands/walks beside us’.