

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

**A year long quest for Spiritual formation,
reorientation and activation written by Brian
McLaren.**

Our Bible study is progressing through parts of the
above book.

Due to the positive responses to our first 7 lessons

Join the Adventure

we are going to continue for the next 13 weeks
exploring the topic **“Alive in the Spirit of God.”**

We pray that we can meet face to face very soon
but for now, please enjoy via email or hard copy in
the post.

For those who have missed any of the lessons,
please let me know and I will provide them to you.

**For further information please contact Rev. Judi
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0423 375 714.**



Following Jesus today is very similar to what the original disciples experienced. We are welcomed as disciples by God's grace, not by earning, works or status. We seek to learn, understand and imitate His example and we commune with Him around the table.

But there is one obvious difference – they could see Jesus and we can't.

John 14:16 Jesus said: "I will ask the Father and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth."

Many people today undervalue the Holy Spirit's role in the life of Jesus. The Lord relied on Him not as an impersonal force, but as a friend – and for good reason,

The Holy Spirit is a distinct, personal being with definite characteristics, the third person of the Trinity. Jesus called Him an advocate and promised that the Spirit would take His place as the disciples' helper. Surely no impersonal force could fill such a role.

As Christ's intimate companion, He had a massive impact. First, Jesus was miraculously conceived by the Holy Spirit. He was anointed for His public ministry by the Holy Spirit and

empowered throughout His earthly life by Him. Even at the cross the Spirit played a significant role. Hebrews 9:14 says – Jesus through the eternal Spirit offered Himself unblemished to God. And Jesus was supernaturally raised by the Spirit.

Take for instance Paul – he never saw Jesus in the flesh but he did experience the Spirit of Christ which transformed him. Through this experience the Spirit indwelt Paul and he could see the world through Christ's eyes. As Paul said – I in Christ and Christ in me.

On the day of Pentecost the disciples experienced the Spirit of God; the Spirit of aliveness; the Wind-breath-fire-cloud-water-wine-dove Spirit who filled Jesus and is on the move in our world.

The Holy Spirit brought unity and diversity into harmony.

Have we exchanged the fire of the Spirit for the ice of religious pride?

Have we turned the wine back into water, then let it go stagnant and lukewarm?

Have we let the gentle dove of peace become a predatory hawk or eagle of empire?

When we have done so we have ended up with just another religious system, too often petty, argumentative, judgemental, cold, hostile, bureaucratic, self-seeking – an enemy of aliveness.

Are we ready? Are we willing to let go and let be?

Are we willing to rise with Christ – and inhale, open our emptiness, unlock our inner vacuum – for the Spirit to enter and fill – like wind, breath, fire, cloud, water, wind and a dove?

Are we willing to let come?