

Listening for the Promise

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL

Ascension of the Lord — May 9, 2024

*“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you,
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem
and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

Acts 1:8

Bob Hope was an incredible man. He was known the world over for his humor, talent, and kind heart. He lived for one hundred years and served many generations who laughed at his jokes, movies, and television shows. Arguably his greatest contribution to others was his live performances with the U.S.O. for deployed military troops. He gave so much to bring joy to others and he will be remembered for those events. Ever wonder what it was like to know him personally? It would have been impossible for Bob Hope to know everyone who loved him; he was one person trapped by time and space. We knew him, loved him, and considered him a part of our lives, but there was no way Bob Hope could ever know each of us personally.

Have you ever wondered what it was like to be a friend of Jesus? Have you wondered what it would have been like to travel with Him, to hear Him preach and teach, to see the miracles? It must have been a joy just to be with Jesus. Jesus worked with His disciples before and after the Resurrection, teaching them everything they needed to know to do His work in the world. When that work was complete, Jesus took them to the Mount of Olives where they worshipped him. He told them to wait for the promised Helper in Jerusalem. Then He ascended into heaven, never to be seen again.

Why did He have to go? Jesus was just as limited as Bob Hope, His flesh made it impossible for Him to meet every person face to face. The Church would never have grown if Jesus had stayed. He could not have touched the hearts of people in the four corners of the world as a man of flesh, even with His resurrected body. Jesus ascended into heaven so that He could send the promised One, the Holy Spirit. Though Jesus is not here in flesh, He is here in a much better way, a way in which we all can know Him. The Ascension was a sad moment for the disciples, they grieved the loss of their flesh and blood friend and teacher, but it was a reason for joy for the Church because it assured that we can have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus.

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