

God with Us Brings Hope

Day 6 HELP IN HOPE

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (John 14:16-18)

Any kid will tell you that gifts are the best part of Christmas - except for the waiting part. Seeing all those pretty packages right beneath the tree is a special kind of torture for the young. Waiting for Christmas Day to arrive can feel like an eternity. Opening a little window on an Advent calendar or breaking a link of a construction paper chain might help give a child a tangible way to track the days, but it can't quite speed up the perceived crawling pace of time.

Waiting for Christ to return and complete His ultimate work can sometimes feel like an eternity to us, especially as we witness or experience suffering, injustice, and evil in the world around us. Fortunately, God has not left us on our own. When Jesus' time on earth ended, God gave His followers an amazing gift: His Spirit. Despite the struggles, challenges, and pains we face, we are not alone. We have the power of God's Spirit within us. This is God with Us in continual presence - every day, every minute, every second. The Spirit fills us with power, strength, help, hope, love, joy, peace, and more. The Spirit nurtures us and is constantly doing God's work in and through us. As we wait for God to make all things right, we are never alone!

What makes you long for Christ's return? What makes you impatient during the Christmas season? What can you do to draw upon the Holy Spirit strength and patience?