



Meditation #1

Pentecost 2009

In Celebration of the Spirit:
Stretching Out in Expectation of the Overflow
Acts 2

Always and Forever

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever.”

John 15:16

The heartbreak and disappointments of life can be heavy. The weight of the loss of friends, loved ones, employment, resources, or health can cause emotional trial and bring spiritual challenge and testing. Life is fragile. All of our enjoyments and comforts are suspect to be temporary. Really, there are many things for which we know not the end. But hallelujah, we know Who holds the end. We know who holds the future! And this is enough for us.

Amid the news that Jesus would be departing, He tells His disciples that they will receive a “Comforter” (Holy Spirit) who will never leave them, Who will abide with them forever. This is the assurance we celebrate today. This is the confidence we boldly affirm and enjoy today. No matter the transitions and changes of what turned out to be temporary, God has made His home with you and in you through His Spirit. And He never needs to forward His mail. His address never changes.

What stormy waters does your journey call you to sail? What unmet challenges does this season set before you to prevail? What unfamiliar roads does this mile in your life bring for you to tread? Who has left you? What has changed? What place you lodged proved temporary? So be it. But be ye not dismayed. So be it! But be ye not discouraged. Always and forever your God is with you, in you. Always and forever, your Jesus is present. Always and forever, the Holy Spirit has made you His home, and never, ever shall he leave. It is God who keepeth thee. It shall be well. In fact, I declare to you today, it is well! For your God is at home within you!

Pray this:

Heavenly Father I rest in the confident assurance of Your abiding presence with me. And I know that you keep what is your own! Hallelujah!

(COPYRIGHT DR. VERNON PERCY HOWARD JR.)