

The Ascension

The Ascension of our Lord Jesus into Heaven raises several important points that merit our attention and contemplation.

The Forty Days

The feast of the Ascension marks the end of Christ's life on earth. For forty days after His Resurrection our Lord appeared, talked, walked and ate with His disciples. During this period He taught and Confirmed their Faith in Him. Just before Ascending, however, Christ assured His disciples with these comforting words: I am with you always even to the end of the ages (Mtt 28:20).

Christ's Blessings

As our Lord parted from His disciples He blessed them and a cloud received Him out of their sight (Lk 24:51). Consequently, we cannot enter into the state of the Ascension in the Spirit or taste it unless we are being blessed. Our heart must be in a state of forgiveness and true peace, compassion and affection for everyone thus we can break loose from this gravity of earth into the sense of the Ascension tasting and living it in Spirit and truth.

Defeating the Laws of Gravity

The Ascension of our Lord into Heaven differed to that of St Mary, Elijah and Enoch. Christ ascended with His own invincible power and strength and thus defeated the Law of gravity. Enoch, Elijah and St Mary however, required the power of God to raise them. Further, Our Lord now reigns in heaven and is alive forevermore (Rev 1:17 & 18).

The Right Hand of the Father

Following the Completion of His earthly ministry, Christ ascends to Heaven and deservedly sits at the Right hand of His Father as St Stephen saw while being stoned (Acts 7:55 & 56).

It should be made clear that God has no right or left hand. Rather Jesus sat (settled) at the power or Bosom of the Father. Thus fulfilling the words of the Psalmist: "The Lord said to My Lord sit at my right hand till I make your enemies your footstool (Ps 110:1).

Heaven

Christ ascended to prepare a place for us in Heaven (Jn 14:3). This is why St Paul urges us with a mystical persistence intelligible only to those who by the Spirit are initiated into the divine presence: "If then you have been raised with Christ seek the things that are above where Christ is sitting at the right hand of God (Col 3:1).

To live in the presence of God conscious of the union with Christ that the freely accomplished in us and for us is the essence of the Ascension. This consciousness should give us an inner peace that transcends the mind with all its troubles and weaknesses.

The Second Coming

Jesus said the two Angels, who were taken up from you into Heaven, will so come in a like manner as you saw Him go into Heaven (Acts 1:11). Consequently, we are called to reflect upon and prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus for we do not know when the Son of Man will come (Mtt 24:42). On this great and awesome day we hope that we will ascend to heaven and enjoy the Heavenly life with Christ.

Between the Ascension and Pentecost

In the 10 days between the Ascension and Pentecost the disciples remained in the Upper Room in prayer (Acts 1:14) preparing themselves to receive the Holy Spirit. Further, they elected Matthias to replace Judas (Acts 1:23-25).

May we too prepare ourselves to receive the Holy Spirit thus raise our hearts, minds and desires from the vanities and the world to the Richness of Heaven where Christ our Lord Reigns at the Right Hand of the Father!

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