

Matthew 28:19-20

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Today’s devotional is known as the Great Commission. But I am not going to teach on that today, but on one statement that Jesus made here, which is “*and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*”. When I read that, I thought about my job, and how I used to be a trainer teaching new employees how to do what I do. Just a FYI, my job is dealing with complaints for medical devices and documenting the complaints in a computer database as well as reporting complaints to the FDA.

So when I used to train people, I didn’t just tell them to read the procedures, then get to work. No, because it’s a lot more complicated than just reading the instructions for something that people are not used to doing, and then having them going out and do it.

Now for me, I am one of those who you can talk to until your blue in the face, giving me instructions. But I am a hands on person, who wants to hear what you have to say, then get in there and do it myself, asking questions along the way when needed.

But a lot of people are not like that, and they need someone there to guide them along the way, and that’s how I was as a trainer.

I would have them read the procedures.

Then I would actually go over the procedures with them.

Then I let them observe me doing the task.

Afterwards I would let them try it as well, while I sit there next to them.

It usually took a person a month or two before they were comfortable enough to work on their own without me being there with them. But even after they were fully trained and could perform their job, I would always be around for them to ask questions and for guidance, which they did, even after they were there for several years. Also as they matured in their job, they were able to help out the newer people as well.

So when I read this portion of scripture, “*and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*” I could kind of relate, because as I thought about it, isn’t that what Jesus does? He has sent us the Holy Spirit as the Teacher or Instructor. And the Holy Spirit doesn’t just say, ok, read the manual (the bible) now go live like a Christian. It would be impossible for us to do, and Jesus knew that, and that’s why He had the Father, God, send the Holy Spirit, to come along side us as we read the procedure/manual (the bible) and live our new life in Jesus Christ.

† **John 14:16 & 26** *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--
But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.*

And even though it took a month or two for me to train someone well enough to be on their own, it's different for us, because it takes a lifetime of having the Holy Spirit with us (*He may abide with you forever*), always teaching and guiding us and coming along side of us as we go through life as a believer.

So, isn't it great to know that we as Christians are never, ever alone, even when it may seem like we are sometimes? But we know we are not, just by reading Jesus' words of comfort to us, "*and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age*" and "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever*" I love how the King James calls the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, instead of the Helper, but the I like both, because I need the Holy Spirit as my Helper, but also as my Comforter.

I believe some of you out there really need to hear this reminder, even though you know it's true. Yet somehow, when things get tough, we tend to forget that we are not alone.

† **John 16:7 (KJV)** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

Jesus has sent the Helper/Comforter to come along side us all the time. But, just like you can't see the air around you, you know it's there, the same is true of the Holy Spirit, even though you can't see Him, He is always there.

One other thing I used to always tell new people when they first came on board, and that was; "*There is no such thing as a stupid question, only making a stupid mistake for not asking that stupid question.*"

So, no matter how stupid or insignificant what you are going through may seem to be, or how simple the question may seem, the Lord wants to hear your questions and concerns, not to make fun of you, but so you won't make a stupid or wrong decision.

† **Romans 16:19b** *Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil.*

Remember that Sarah asked what seemed to be a crazy question at the age of 90.

† **Genesis 18:13b** *'Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?'*

Or in our terms today, “*God, I’m a 90 year old woman, ‘Shall I surely bear a child, since I am old?’*” And what was God’s response? “*Is anything too hard for the LORD?*” Genesis 18:14a

Simply, “*Good question, but I am God; therefore, ‘Is anything too hard for the LORD?’*”

No matter how crazy or simple or complicated your question or issue in life is, “*Is anything too hard for the LORD?*”

And when you answer , “No” then remember that “*lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.*” Amen. Matthew 28:20b