



# No Wonder You Left Him With Us

Father God,

HOW EASY IT IS FOR ME TO FORGET ABOUT YOU, if just for a moment. Most people have far more distractions in their lives than I, but still the things of this world insist on elbowing their way between You and me.

Even before everything else, in the silent first moments of the day, when my mind should be free of anything barring the way to sweet communion with You, the insistent things of this world press in, clamoring for my attention. And it becomes a struggle to focus my thoughts on things above.



No wonder You gave us the Spirit. No wonder You left Him with us. For without the Spirit it would be so easy to forget You entirely.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

The flesh drives the senses. It insists on the physical being preeminent. So it is built into us from birth that those things we can touch and see and hear and taste are of primary importance. But just the opposite is true. That which we *cannot* see, that which we cannot touch or hear—*You*, Lord—is of such import as to throw everything else into deepest shadow.

But living away from You, here with our feet stuck in the clay of this fallen globe, this becomes twisted and reversed. Like a lonely sailor, far from his true love, who seeks solace in the arms of anyone within reach, we reach out to those things we can see and touch—temporal things, fallen things, things that will

eventually be consumed—and, if even for a moment, we misplace our first love.

Without the Spirit we would forget You, Father. But in Your gracious wisdom—in the Triune board meeting that planned it all out before time began—You determined that the Holy Spirit would be a necessary umbilical between weak flesh and heaven.

"These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you. 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 that I said to you."

*John 14:25-26*

So thank You, Father. Thank You for being not just in charge of the future, but wise. Thank You for loving us so much that even when we misplace You, You refuse to misplace us.

And thank You, Father, for the Holy Spirit—that comforting, nagging, encouraging, persistent Friend. I owe Him much, for He never lets me forget You for long. And He is always—*always* stronger than flesh. He never lets me forget that You are far more important than anything I can see with my eyes, hear with my ears, and touch with my hands. His one "sense" is superior to my five combined, and for that I am grateful.

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!"

*Romans 8:12-15*

