

## CatClub: Question 51



Last week we considered what Christ's resurrection means for us; this week we look at Christ's ascension.

1. Q51 asks: Of what advantage to us is Christ's ascension? Answer: **Christ physically ascended on our behalf, just as he came down to earth physically on our account, and he is now advocating for us in the presence of his Father, preparing a place for us, and also sends us his Spirit.**

Explanations: to ascend = to go up; to advocate = to speak/act on behalf of someone, e.g. as a defence lawyer in a court case; his Spirit = the Holy Spirit.

2. Investigation - please look up:

1. (In the New Testament) Acts chapter 1, verses 1-3 and 9-11. Here the writer, Luke, tells us what happened when **Jesus completed his time on earth by ascending back to heaven.**

2. (In the New Testament) Romans chapter 8, verse 34. Paul, the writer, makes it clear that Jesus is still active now that he has gone back up to heaven, to be with his Father. **In fact he is 'interceding' for us, which means that he is speaking on our behalf before the Father.** This is particularly the case when we pray.

3. (In the New Testament) John chapter 14, verses 1-3. Here Jesus himself promises his disciples – and therefore us too – **that he will prepare a place for us in heaven when we die.** This is a great comfort for all believers!

4. (In the New Testament) John chapter 14, verses 16-17. Again Jesus promises his followers **that he will send the Holy Spirit to be with us and live within us for ever.** The mark of the Christian is that he/she is indwelt by God the Holy Spirit.

Next week's question: What hope does everlasting life hold out for us?

This week's songs:

'I Will Rise': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VD4joM7INws>

'Christ be Magnified': <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjGMlYywk9M>

## Acts 1:1- and 9-11

1 <sup>1</sup>In my former book\*, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup>until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. <sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.....<sup>9</sup>After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.<sup>10</sup>They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. <sup>11</sup>'Men of Galilee,' they said, 'why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.'

\* His 'former book' is Luke's gospel. Acts is in effect Luke's 'volume 2'.

## Romans 8:34

<sup>34</sup> Christ Jesus who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

## John 14:1-3

14 <sup>1</sup> 'Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. <sup>2</sup> My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? <sup>3</sup> And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

## John 14:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you for ever – <sup>17</sup> 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.