

I will come to you

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Let us pray.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious, holy and faithful Lord, we thank you, oh Lord, for this time, this time, Lord, that thou hast provided in thy great providence for thy children. Lord, we thank you for the healing thou hast done to bring those here that including myself, Lord, in this last week. Lord, I pray that you would come now. Come with thy power. Come with thy presence that we may know, Lord, that thou art here. Lord, I pray that you would settle all of our thoughts. Deal with all of the things that cause us anxiety and all the things that would take us away from thy Word, take us away from thee. Lord, may you bring our thoughts and our hearts and our minds subject unto thee this hour and the hour to come that, Lord, thy people may be fed at thy table. We ask, oh Lord, for thy name to be glorified and, Lord, for thee to come as thou would see fit. Anoint this message for the praise and glory of thy name. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Many of you know it has been a hard week. It is a hard life of the child of God. One of the nights this week I was sitting at my desk and lamenting with great sorrow over the events of the day, of the events of the hour, events of the minute, the things that were coming in violently. As my mind started to drift off to woe is me and the anguish came to my soul, the Lord just kind of took me away and dropped a kind word to my soul that this doesn't take place in the world's hearts. The world doesn't know anything about this struggle. The world doesn't know anything about the soul struggle and the comforts of the soul.

And as I had my Bible open and the Lord drew me to the Word, he came across and he brought me to one verse that hadn't been able to leave me since then and that is our focal verse this morning. It has taken on a whole new meaning to me. I hope it does to you this day as he comes with power. That is found in John chapter 14 verse 18.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”¹

Wow. It seems to me that as life gets hard, as the attacks of Satan come, as the afflictions come mightily and powerfully, as you see the ones around you that you love so dearly in

¹ John 14:18.

the Lord and you see them suffer and you see the sorrow that comes, I believe the only thing, the only remedy for the child of God is the presence of his Lord. To be brought into the presence of the Lord.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”²

Two precious promises, two of them tied up in one thing, the I will of Christ.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”³

But, you know, they are just promises. We in this life read the promises in the Word. We make promises to one another, but that promise must be attended with the faith of the Son of God. He must come in the power of the Holy Ghost for us to believe it.

I have watched some things this week unfolded before my eyes that scared me tremendously, my flesh. My soul was very bothered by things. The Lord kept bringing me back to:

“I will not leave you comfortless.”⁴

You know, the Greek word for comfortless here you might find to be interesting. It is orphan.

“I will not leave you [an orphan].”⁵

And immediately when I stumbled upon that, I thought about Isaiah 9:6 where the Lord Jesus Christ is...

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father.”⁶

And we stumble over that sometimes because we think of the Father being the Father, but that name was given to Christ, too. You think of that word:

“I will not leave you [as an orphan].”⁷

I think of when the Lord’s love is upon me for my children and I know what that nurturing love is. So I get a picture of this in that. I get a picture of what Christ’s love is to his people. And when he says:

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Isaiah 9:6.

⁷ John 14:18.

“I will not leave you comfortless...”⁸

“I will not leave you as an orphan,” it speaks to my soul that I am his child, that I am the brother of Christ, that I have a heavenly Father.

It is his presence. And when sin separates us from that presence we can cry. We can cry out and we can beg for him, but when he comes the remedy of reading the Word and praying, but when he comes with that power and his presence is felt in your soul, David said in Psalm 51:11:

“Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.”⁹

We are going to look later what Christ said about the Holy Spirit, that he will abide with you forever. And he abides with the child of God forever, so how could David say this? David was being exercised in his soul. There are times in our life when we don't believe the Lord is there. It is unbelief. Our sin and our wandering from how bad it is in the situation to how it could be. And as Satan hurls his darts and as he throws his fiery darts at us, there seems to be a separation. And David cried out:

“Cast me not away from thy presence.”¹⁰

In Psalm 28:1 he wrote these words. He said:

“Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.”¹¹

For the child of God without the presence of Christ in his soul it is hell. It is hell on earth.

I witnessed the one this week, the most dearest one to me on this earth at the lowest time and the most pain in the agony of these muscle spasms or the violence of them, to hear her cry for mercy, scream for mercy and I sat there powerless. And I know in my heart I would do anything for her and I tried. I gave her all the medication she is supposed to have. I would get a heating pad. I would get a ice pack. I would do everything the doctor said. And they would come more violently. The screaming would become more violent.

And then in the midst of it, she told me, “Just talk to me about the cross.”

I spent the next five, 10 minutes preaching a little sermon to her about the cross. That is why she probably picked that song this morning because when she surveyed the wondrous cross... how do you smile in the middle of all that? It is his presence. And when his presence comes to you that way, the body can hurt, but when the soul is healed,

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Psalm 51:11.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Psalm 28:1.

when the soul is in his presence, in his love, in his faith, in his mercy, that is where the comfort is.

Keep your finger there a minute and turn with me over to Psalm 139 beginning in verse seven. David was brought to this wondrous truth. In the one we just looked at in Psalm 28 when he cried out, he dried out and he said, “Lord, if you are silent to me and if you are not with me, it is just like I am in hell.”

Well, then we have the height of faith here, the faith given by the Son of God to apprehend the truth, to apprehend the promise that I will never ... I will not leave you comfortless. I will come to you.

And beginning in verse seven he says:

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.¹²

And that is quite a statement.

“...even the night shall be light about me.”¹³

One of the things I noticed this week in the violence of this affliction that the Lord gave my wife is that Satan came the most in the night hours. In the middle of the night he would come to the mind and he would start with all of these horrible, horrible things. She would wake up paralyzed in a fear and tell me something that I knew she was convinced that it was going to take place in her life, whether it was death or she was going to the hospital or whatever it was. Now I could recognize it as an attack, but she couldn't, because she couldn't see his presence.

When the Lord reveals his presence the darkness, the night... listen to this.

“Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.”¹⁴

The light of Christ shines through that darkness.

“Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.”¹⁵

¹² Psalm 139:7-11.

¹³ Psalm 139:11.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Psalm 139:12.

You know, Christ is in that, too. He is the Lord of the light and he is the Lord of the darkness. And we may say, “No, no, the prince of the power of the air, he is the Lord of the darkness.”

Well, my Lord is over him. And when he comes it doesn't matter what the time is or the darkness of the hour, when he comes to reveal his presence, when he comes to the soul that is where the comfort is.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”¹⁶

Back to our text in John 14 because now I want to speak a little bit about how he comes. Back in John 14 how do we get to:

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”¹⁷

Well, we back up a couple of verses. Look at verse 16.

“And I will pray the Father.”¹⁸

See, we have an advocate and we have a mediator and we have an intercessor. We have one who joins us to the Father. This is how he doesn't leave us comfortless. This is how he doesn't leave us as an orphan. This is how he comes to us. He comes by making intercession.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”¹⁹

That is the thing. The Comforter that the Father and the Son sent in the Holy Spirit, it never leaves the child of God. We may quench him. We may grieve him, but he doesn't leave us. He abides with us forever.

When David said, “... take not thy holy spirit from me,”²⁰ remember this was written in Psalm 51. It was when the Lord had brought down his chastening hand upon David for his sin. And David had opened up... had been shown the glory of the Lord in him. He said:

“[Lord, it is] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned.”²¹

But we get in these moments in the ebbs and flows of life and it is the time that it is absent faith, because contrary to what you hear and contrary to what you have been

¹⁶ John 14:18.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ John 14:16.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Psalm 51:11.

²¹ Psalm 51:4.

taught in your young age or maybe your whole adult life, you can't produce this faith. You can't turn on a switch to believe.

“Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.”²²

I believe up here, but I am not experiencing it in my soul. I know what the Scriptures say. I know where the comfort of the Word says, but, Lord, it hasn't been brought to my soul.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”²³

And this is how. He sent the Comforter that he may abide with you forever, to dwell in us.

“Even the Spirit of truth.”²⁴

And that is the thing. We have so many lies and deception that are rammed down our throat, but the people in this world, by people, acquaintances, it doesn't matter. But most of all from the Father of lies. And they seem to be so much like truth to us. That is why we are told to try the spirits. Is there torment in them? Then the Lord hasn't given you that spirit. Throw it out. Cast it away. Know that it is not of him, because he is the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive.

I told you that is what he showed me when I sat there at the desk. As I am sitting there with my head in my hands and just thinking about how hard the day was and that was the little nugget he gave me.

“In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”²⁵

Lord, what is the victory? Even your faith, the faith born from above.

What Paul wrote in Galatians 2:20:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”²⁶

See, we read that verse and we go immediately to the end and we say, “Yes, he gave himself for me on the cross.” And that is what that means. He gave himself. He laid down his life. But, dear ones:

²² Mark 9:24.

²³ John 14:18.

²⁴ John 14:17.

²⁵ John 16:33.

²⁶ Galatians 2:20.

“I will not leave you comfortless.”²⁷

He gives himself to his children day after day after day. And that is the faith to live. It is him. And that is the faith to be comforted. It is his. And that is the faith and that is the life to live now here on earth, because we are not maintained that way all the time. And we say, “Well, Lord, why [?] just to give us faith that we...?”

Because it is not heaven. It is not heaven. One day we won’t need faith. One day in heaven we will be taken from this earth and all of its trouble and all of its tears and all of its pain and faith will be no more, because we will see them and we will know as we are known to him and we will know him more.

“Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not.”²⁸

It knows him not, but you know him. I mean that is the thing. You know, you could tell somebody that is in the midst of a trial, you could tell them, “Stop! You know him. You know his promises are true,” but in the midst of that trial you don’t. You question. You question it because his presence is not with you at that moment. It is not felt, I should say. It is with you. It is not felt. It is not impressed in your soul. And that is what the Holy Spirit does.

“...but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”²⁹

That is the union of Christ that is apprehended and credited by the faith of the Son of God. And it is not a potential faith. It is the faith that he gives his children because he is Lord.

Now please drop down with me to verse 26, same chapter.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things.”³⁰

He is a sovereign teacher.

And you say, “Well, but wait a minute. Can’t I just pick up this Bible and learn about the Lord?”

No. The Holy Spirit must teach you all things. He teaches in afflictions. He teaches just through the Word. He teaches through experience. But it is not what you experience in a day. It is experiencing the soul in the soul work that Christ comes to.

²⁷ John 14:18.

²⁸ John 14:17.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ John 14:26.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things.”³¹

And as he teaches us all things, you know what? We forget everything. How quickly we forget. We can go home today from what we have heard and forget it all because we are dependent. We are dependent upon the Lord for his power. And that is when we are willing in the day of his power.

“[He will] bring all things to your remembrance.”³²

Praise be to God for that, because I do forget. I have got four children. It is hard to remember their names sometimes. But the Lord never, never forgets the names of his children.

What a grace that the Holy Spirit will not only teach you all things, he will bring all things to your remembrance. Well, what things are those?

“...whatsoever I have said unto you.”³³

Has the Lord spoke to you in his Word? Can you today say, “You know, I know the Lord has been near me. I know the Lord has spoken to me in my life”?

Well, dear ones, he will speak again. He will speak again in his perfect time and he will bring to remembrance all the peace and love and joy that he has shed in your heart before and he will bring it with power and healing, because he is faithful. He is faithful, the one who called you, for he will do it.

Then we go to verse 27.

“Peace I leave with you.”³⁴

Boy, how we need peace. But, you know, peace, unless it is apprehended by faith you will never understand it. You will never experience it. When you start to see how dependent you are on the Lord for his work, for what he did and it is finished, it really shrinks you down to what you believe you can do. It kills you to that. It mortifies the sin of what I do. Well, how can I apprehend. How can I strive? How can I do this?

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth.”³⁵

And, you know, there is... I don't want to lie about this. There is peace in this world. There is peace in medications. There is peace in riches. There is peace in friendships.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ John 14:27.

³⁵ Ibid.

There is peace in reports that we hear on TV. Do you realize that? Do you realize that there is peaceful things that we hear and we think that that is what our soul needs when we hear those things. But that is not what the Lord is talking about.

My peace that I give unto you is not what the world gives. It is not in those things.

“...not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”³⁶

Because all those things I mentioned, those are temporary peaces. They are going to run out. Every one of them is going to let you down and there is going to be times you think the peace of Christ has let you down. Do you know why? Because you hid from his presence. You don't see it. He is sovereign over that, too, the time that he reveals himself.

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”³⁷

To hear my Savior say those words to my soul that is how he doesn't leave me comfortless. That is how he comes to me.

Now we proceed right on in 15 and we go down to verse 26 in John 15 also.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father...”³⁸

Now, will you ask yourself why he just mentioned that over here in 26 of the last chapter and then he mentions it again over here? Those of you that have lived this life and have experienced this understand why the Lord brought it up more than once, because it is needful over and over and over again. It is not a one time event. The Lord doesn't come one time and then everything, oh, you just live upon that. The Lord comes and he comes again and his Spirit comes again to leads you into truth.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.”³⁹

He shall declare of me.

When you are trying the spirits this is the test. The Holy Spirit testifies of Christ. The Holy Spirit testifies of what he did. The Holy Spirit testifies of the life of Christ. It testifies of... did you hear what Paul said?

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.”⁴⁰

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ John 15:26.

³⁹ Ibid.

That is the Holy Spirit testifying to Paul that his life is hid in Christ, that Christ is his life. All that stuff that he said, “I count it as dung,” is gone. All of those accolades, all of those sitting at the feet of Gamaliel, all of the high learning that he had, everything that he had, he has been brought to this state and it has been crucified. It has been put on the cross. And it has been put there by the one who loves me. It has been nailed there by Christ the King.

“...I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God.”⁴¹

That is the Holy Spirit testifying to Paul, “I live by the faith of Christ. I have lived in this life by my faith. It got me nowhere. It got me misplaced zeal. It got me persecuting the very Church of Christ that I now love. That was my faith.”

No, he shall testify and he shall declare of me. And what a grace and mercy that he does it again and again.

“And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”⁴²

Did you hear that? Do you think that as he is talking to the disciples, do you think that he is talking about from the time he said, “Follow me”? Do you think that he says, “Do you know what? The Holy Spirit is going to testify to you because of your walk with me when I called you here in this earth”? What comfort is in that? No, he is talking about from the beginning, the foundation of the world, before any of us were, he was. That is what he is talking about.

“And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”⁴³

That is the union. That is how he teaches his children in and from the union of Christ. It is not abstract. It is not this is the doctrine, live by it. This is the union that we have in Christ that enables us to live. It is Christ in us the hope of glory.

“And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”⁴⁴

Now turn over in John 16 for our last little stop here today. And we begin in verse 13.

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come [mentions him again], he will guide you into all truth.”⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Galatians 2:20.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² John 15:27.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ John 16:13.

Jesus said:

“I am the way, the truth, and the life.”⁴⁶

“How do we know the way, Lord?”

That was the question asked him. “How do we know the way?”

Well, he is the way.

“Well, how do we get there? How does this road and this life lead to him?”

Well, the road and this life doesn't, but the Holy Spirit does.

“...he will guide you into all truth.”⁴⁷

And, see, this next little phrase, this is hard for us.

“...for he shall not speak of himself.”⁴⁸

That is hard for us because he is God. The Holy Spirit is God. He will not speak of himself. And do you know why that is hard for us? Because we speak so much of ourselves. And when we are in this trial or we are in the affliction, we seem to focus in on self. But, see, it is the Holy Spirit who testifies of Christ. He doesn't speak of himself. And do you know what? When he comes to your soul neither will you.

“...he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself.”⁴⁹

And he doesn't speak of us either. And when you are in the middle of that trial, in the middle of that hardship, in the middle of that affliction, in the middle of this life, when you find your thoughts are enraptured with yourself and everything leads back to yourself and everything you hear from everybody else leads back to yourself, there is a problem there. You are hidden from his presence. You are hidden from what the Holy Spirit does. He testifies of Christ.

See, when Paul said that in Galatians, the Lord was not hid from him. The Lord came powerfully to him and the Holy Spirit revealed to him where life was.

“...for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”⁵⁰

⁴⁶ John 14:6.

⁴⁷ John 16:13.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

You know, what he hears of the Father, what he hears of the Son, that is what he speaks.

And, you know, a while back I preached a sermon on take no thought for the morrow. And, you know, there is enough evil in this day that we are enjoined not to look past it. But do you know what? He does for us. See, the Holy Spirit, did you ever notice that? He will show you things to come.

You know, that is future tense. We are cumbered about everything in our future. We are. We hear what the next step is or the next door or whatever it is we are supposed to go and we are cumbered about that, because we don't know what tomorrow brings. And we say, "Yes, Lord, we are supposed to not look past tomorrow," but the Holy Spirit reveals what is to come. He reveals what is to come in Christ, what he has done. And when the Lord brings that to your soul, then the situation is settled. The Lord has done this. Jehovah-shamma, the Lord is there. The Lord's presence is there. That is all I care about. That is all I want. That is what the child of God's desire is. Lord, are you here? Are you there with me? And when the Lord shows them that he is, the Holy Spirit testifies of him and shows him the things to come.

This isn't future events. This isn't Armageddon. This isn't what the end of time. This is life. This is how we live by the faith of the Son of God. And that is what this means. He reveals the next step. He reveals that step in Christ.

But do you know what? It is in his sovereign time and in his sovereign will. He will show you things to come and he testifies of Christ. And those two together show us that he shows us what is the will of the Father and the Son in his perfect time. It may be the moment before it happens, but the peace that he gives his children, the "I will come to you," it is the presence of Christ in your life when he comes. That is the power.

"He shall glorify me."⁵¹

That is the reason for everything that the Holy Spirit does is to glorify me.

"...for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."⁵²

There is our teacher. He receives it from the great prophet, priest and king and he reveals and teaches it to his children.

"All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."⁵³

There is the trinity. There is the union. There is the union of the trinity together. And there is our union in him. But I love this next verse.

⁵¹ John 16:14.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ John 16:15.

“A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.”⁵⁴

You know, everybody looks at that verse and goes, “You know, he is just talking to the disciples because he is about to go to the cross.” Everybody looks at the physical. Everything is about teaching physical.

Really? You experience this? Have you experienced the Lord being there and his presence being with you?

“A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.”⁵⁵

That is our life here on earth. It ebbs and flows in Christ. It ebbs and flows and you say, “Well, what separates us is sin. It is the unbelief.”

Have you ever have entertained any thought that the fall was just an event? This is why we are separate. It was a great fall. It was a great and mighty fall. And it shows us our need and our dependency upon our Lord.

You know, I will leave you one last thought. I sat there and I thought in a moment when my wife was crying out, when I heard her scream, I immediately, the thought, the words that came to my soul was:

“ My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”⁵⁶

And then what came to my soul was:

“I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”⁵⁷

Then what came to my soul was: He was forsaken so we never will be.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”⁵⁸

May the Lord come to each one of you.

Dear heavenly Father, most gracious and holy Lord, oh Lord, add thy power. Lord, may you come to the souls of thy people in thy appointed hour and give them comfort to give them the faith to believe that thou art with them. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

⁵⁴ John 16:16.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ Psalm 22:1; Mathew 27:46; Mark 15:34.

⁵⁷ Hebrews 13:5.

⁵⁸ John 14:18.