

Lighthouse Bible Church

March 23rd, 2014

John 14: 15 - 21 *Scripture Reading: 1st Corinthians 2: 1 - 16*

‘The Promise of the Holy Spirit’

Stand – Read – Pray

Jesus is in the upper room with His disciples on the night before He is to be crucified and die. Judas has already left and the other disciples are there and Jesus is sharing with them some words of encouragement, promise and hope to help comfort their troubled hearts.

He started in Chapter 14 with a promise that He was leaving them to go back to His Father’s house and prepare a place for them. He promised them that He would come back and receive them to Himself that where He was they would be also.

He told them that He was the way to heaven, the truth about heaven and the life eternal in heaven. Then He wanted to encourage them by reaffirming to them who He is so He tells them ‘He who has seen Me has seen the Father and that He is in the Father and the Father in Him and it can be believed because of the words and works that Christ has done according to the Father’s will.

He also encouraged them by telling them that when He leaves, they will be empowered for ministry because He is going back to the Father and He will send the Holy Spirit of power to indwell them.

And He finally told them that when I am gone you can ask whatever you want in My name and I will do it and I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in Me.

And He wants to continue His words of encouragement to them and wants to share another incredible promise with them that would certainly be a comfort for their troubled hearts and that is the promise of the Holy Spirit. And that is where we want to pick it up this morning starting in Verse 15.

Verse 15: If you love Me keep My commandments.

Before Jesus shares with them what the promise is, He shares the foundation on which this promise may be received, which is a love for the Lord that shows itself in obedience to His word from a heart of love.

Jesus says ‘I’m going to be leaving you and I have shared with you all that you need to follow Me so if you truly love Me, **if you love Me you will keep My commandments** because you love Me.

Jesus is going to say in **Verse 23** **if anyone loves Me, he will keep My word** and isn’t that always the character and evidence of someone who loves Jesus; Jesus will say in **John 15: 10** **if you keep My commandments you will abide in My love, JUST as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.**

Jesus is saying, I am the living illustration of the principle of love. I have proven to you My love for the Father by obeying the Father's commands. In like manner, will you also prove your love to Me by obeying My commands?

You cannot separate the two; love and obedience go hand in hand. It is never enough to say you love Him without showing your love through your actions of obedience. Our love is demonstrated by an active, eager, joyful, glad, willing, responsive obedience to the commands of Jesus that show our love for Him. It is not out of duty or legalism or necessity that we obey, it is out of love. Listen to what **1st John 2: 3 – 5** says. **Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

He who says I know Him and does not keep His commandments is a liar and the truth is not in him. But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in Him. By this we know that we are in Him.

1st John 3: 24 he who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in Him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us. We cannot love Christ and keep His commandments without the help and power of the Holy Spirit.

1st John 5: 2 – 3: by this we know that we love the children of God when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God that we keep His commandments and His commandments are not burdensome. His commandments for us today are the entire revealed word of God. So Jesus says if you love Me and keep My commandments, then I want to encourage you with what I will do for you.

For the disciples, they had the Holy Spirit dwelling WITH them, as Verse 17 says, giving them the power to love and serve and obey Christ. But that will all change when Jesus leaves, because He will send the Holy Spirit to dwell IN them the end of Verse 17 says.

But for us today, we are able to love Jesus and show that love for Jesus because we have been born again by the Holy Spirit of God who gives us the ability and desire to love and obey Him. Again, this is talking to the disciples specifically because the Holy Spirit has not been sent yet to indwell them and to us generally because we have the Holy Spirit at the time of salvation.

Verse 16 – 17a: and I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth.

Jesus says ‘when I am gone I will not leave you alone, I will **give you another Helper** or another Comforter, **the Spirit of truth.**

Jesus says the One I will send is the Helper or Comforter. It is the word *parakaleto* which comes from two words; *Para* = *along side* and *kaleo* = *to call*, it means someone who is called along side to help.

The same word is used in **1st John 2: 1**: **these things I write to you so that you may not sin and if anyone sins we have an ADVOCATE with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.** That word advocate is the same word.

Notice that Jesus says ‘I will send you **another** Helper’, in other words Jesus says ‘I have been helping you, coming along side you, and now I will send someone else who will do the same thing. By the way that word ‘another’ is the word *allos* in the Greek and it means another of the exact same kind. Jesus says when I go away, I will send you another of the same kind as Myself, the Holy Spirit of truth. That would have been a huge comfort for the disciples to hear.

By the way, this is the 3rd person of the triune God, the trinity, the Holy Spirit of God. He is a person because He is exactly like Jesus who is exactly like God because they are One in the same. The Holy Spirit isn't some supernatural power to call upon who is impersonal, He is God the Spirit living within all born again believers. That is why Jesus uses the word **He** and not it in Verse 16.

You can do a study on the Holy Spirit sometime and you will see that He has the attributes of God the Father and God the Son and is a person that has **intellect**, and **will** and **emotion**. He **teaches**, He **leads**, He **directs**, He **guides**, He **intercedes**, He is **all knowing**, He is **everywhere present**, He is **all powerful**, He is **creator**. He **inspired the scriptures**, He **regenerates** the lost sinner. He is even called God in **Acts 5: 3 – 4** and **2nd Corinthians 3: 17**

He is called the Spirit of God in **Matthew 3: 16**. He is called the Spirit of Jesus Christ in **Philippians 1: 19**

As a matter of fact Jesus says at the end of Verse 16 the Helper whom I send **He will abide with you**, how long, **FOREVER**. Listen, when you receive the Holy Spirit at conversion He remains with you forever. You can't lose Him, and get Him back and lose Him. Once He indwells you, it is forever.

Jesus calls this Helper, the Holy Spirit, the '**Spirit of truth**' and you can see why in **John 16: 13** where it says **however when He the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth**. Because He will guide them, and us, into the truth of who Jesus is and what His word means.

Jesus says in the rest of Verse 17 of John 14 of the Holy Spirit, that **the world cannot receive because it neither sees Him nor knows Him**. Jesus says they didn't recognize or receive or know the first Comforter, the first Helper that came, Jesus, He came unto His own and His own, what, received Him not. So why would they recognize the second One, who is exactly like the first.

The unbelieving world cannot receive or see or know the Holy Spirit of God because they did not receive or see or know who Christ was. And it is the same for us today, the unregenerate, unbelieving world can not understand or know the spiritual truth about God or Christ or the Holy Spirit without the Spirit of truth indwelling them. Isn't that what **1st Corinthians 2: 14** says **the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him nor can he know them because they are spiritually discerned**.

Think about the religious leaders of Jesus' day, they had all the Old Testament, they had seen Jesus and heard Him teach and what did they conclude. He was demon possessed and controlled by the prince of demons. No amount of knowledge is going to get you any closer to the truth apart from the Holy Spirit of truth indwelling you.

Then Jesus says at the end of Verse 17 **but you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in you.** The disciples knew the Holy Spirit because they knew Jesus and saw the Holy Spirit working through Him. Remember that after the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3: 16 it says **the Holy Spirit descended on Him like a dove.** When Jesus was accused of doing His miracles by the power of Satan, He said you blaspheme whom? The Holy Spirit Mark 3: 22 – 30

Jesus says the Holy Spirit dwells with you but soon **He will be IN you.** That is really the change between the Old and New Testament. The Holy Spirit dwelt WITH the people but after Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit comes, He will indwell true believers.

That is why Romans 8: 9 – 10 says **but you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit if indeed the Spirit of God dwells IN you. now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.**

What does 1st Corinthians 6: 19 say? **Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God?**

Jesus says, by way of comfort to them, listen I have been WITH you and now I will be IN you in the person of the Holy Spirit. He says in Verse 18

Verse 18: **I will not leave you orphans, I will come to you.** He is going to leave them when He is arrested and crucified and killed. But He wouldn't leave them orphans, He will come to them. He will come to them in two ways really. One at His resurrection where they will see Him again for a short time and then again when He sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost to indwell them forever. He won't leave them or forsake them, just like He will not leave or forsake us either.

Verse 19: a little while longer and the world will see Me no more but you will see Me because I live you will live also.

In just a short time Jesus would be dead and the unbelieving world would never see Him again, physically and never know Him spiritually because they were spiritually dead in the trespasses and sins, just like we were before we came to Christ.

Jesus says **but you will see Me because I live you will live also.** You will see Me after I have been in the grave for three days. You will see Me through the eyes of faith as I indwell you and other believers through the Holy Spirit of God.

You will know that I am alive; and they did, didn't they. After the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples you couldn't stop them from preaching and ministering and teaching and telling everyone about Jesus. Because to them He was very much alive and they saw the moving of the Spirit of God in their own lives and in the lives of those around them who were born again of His Spirit and had Christ living within them.

Jesus says **because I live, you shall live also.** That is His promise of resurrection life in the here and now and in the future both. They will be more alive by the Spirit of Christ indwelling them than they ever have been before. They are alive spiritually, they are no longer dead in the trespasses and sins. So in that sense they are alive now, but in the greater sense, after they see Jesus raised from the dead, they too will know because He is alive from the dead, they will be too someday.

Verse 20: at that day you will know that I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you.

Jesus says **at that day** the day the Holy Spirit indwells you, **you will know.**

You will **know** that I am in My Father and you in Me and I in you. When we receive the Holy Spirit of God at salvation we are united with Christ who is united with the Father. As a matter of fact in **Verse 23** says **if anyone loves Me he will keep My word and**, as we saw earlier receive the Holy Spirit, **then My Father will love him and WE will come to him and make OUR home with him**. I don't know if you comprehend what that is saying.

And when that day happened they knew the fullness of what it meant to have Jesus in the Father and He in them and He in them. Just look at Peter in **Acts 2: 1 – 39** and see, because of the indwelling Holy Spirit of God, everything came into focus for Him.

This really becomes the changing point from the Old to the New Testament and the beginning of the church with the indwelling of the Trinity in a believer. As a born again believer today we have been united with Christ and God through the Holy Spirit, we are now **in Christ and He in us**.

Romans 8: 1 says **there is therefore now no condemnation to those who are IN Christ Jesus**. **2nd Corinthians 5: 17** says **if we are in Christ we are a new creation**. In **John 15: 5** says **he who abides in Me and I in him bears much fruit..** **2nd Corinthians 13: 5** says **examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves that Jesus Christ is in you? Galatians 2: 20 ... but Christ who lives in me...**

In **1st John 3: 23 – 24** it says **and this is His commandment that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him and He in him and by this we know that He abides in us by the Spirit whom He has given us**.

That is why Jesus says what He does in Verse 21

Verse 21: he who has My commandments and keeps them it is he who love Me and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.

He kind of goes back to the beginning and says that only those who keep and obey My commandments out of a heart of love for Me can have the kind of union and love relationship with Me and My Father.

As we've said before their obedience isn't the means of salvation and the union with Christ because the Bible says **by the deeds of the law will no flesh be justified in His sight Romans 3: 19 and Ephesians 2: 8 – 9** says. Obedience is the result of that union with Christ at salvation. We are saved for good works.

We can't love and obey without the power of the Holy Spirit living within us. **Romans 5: 5 says the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.**

When we love and obey Christ by the power of His Holy Spirit then Jesus says **I will manifest Myself to him.** That word **manifest** is used other places in scripture to mean to show Myself, to reveal Myself, to declare Myself or to make Myself known. As we shall see, this means that they will have a spiritual showing or revealing or declaring or knowing about Jesus.

Remember, the natural man cannot understand the things of God for they are spiritually discerned. Jesus is saying here that you will have that spiritual discernment about Me that no one else can have apart from the indwelling Holy Spirit, because they are dead in their sins.

What about you here today? Do you have that union with Christ? Do you have the Holy Spirit in you? Because if you don't you are not His. gospel

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Introduction and Review

Verse 15:

John 15: 10, 1st John 2: 3 – 5, 1st John 3: 24
1st John 5: 2 – 3

Verse 16 – 17a:

1st John 2: 1, Acts 5: 3 – 4, 2nd Corinthians 3: 17
Matthew 3: 16, Philippians 1: 19, John 16: 13

Verse 17b:

1st Corinthians 2: 14, Matthew 3: 22 – 30
Romans 8: 9 – 10, 1st Corinthians 6: 19

Verses 18 – 20:

Acts 2: 1 – 39, Romans 8: 1, 2nd Corinthians 5: 17
John 15: 5, 2nd Corinthians 13: 5, Galatians 2: 20
1st John 3: 23 – 24

Verse 21:

Romans 3: 19, Ephesians 2: 8 – 9, Romans 5: 5

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1st John 2: 1, Acts 5: 3 – 4, 2nd Corinthians 3: 17
Matthew 3: 16, Philippians 1: 19, John 16: 13

Verse 17b:

1st Corinthians 2: 14, Matthew 3: 22 – 30
Romans 8: 9 – 10, 1st Corinthians 6: 19

Verses 18 – 20:

Acts 2: 1 – 39, Romans 8: 1, 2nd Corinthians 5: 17
John 15: 5, 2nd Corinthians 13: 5, Galatians 2: 20
1st John 3: 23 – 24

Verse 21:

Romans 3: 19, Ephesians 2: 8 – 9, Romans 5: 5