

There are often two ditches that must be avoided with regards to the Holy Spirit—some Christians fixate upon the Spirit at the expense of the Father and Son, and yet, other Christians, may slight or neglect the Holy Spirit—both are wrong, and equally problematic...

I suggest one way we are kept from either ditch is to remember the primary focus of the Spirit's ministry is to glorify Christ—many Christians attempt to place the limelight on the Spirit, when it's the Spirit's task to place the limelight on Christ...

For the past several months, we've been considering our Savior's final sermon, to His beloved disciples—the instruction takes place in the upper room, thus, it's often called the Upper Room Discourse—it's Thursday night and our Savior was just hours away from being betrayed, arrested, and crucified—this is His final, formal teaching to His people...

The discourse largely contains promises and precepts—that is, He promises them grace and help to fulfill His precepts, both as apostles and private Christians—this help comes from the Holy Spirit, who He promises to send—in other words, although our Savior would leave them bodily, He would yet come to them spiritually, in or by His Spirit...

The connection of verses 26-27 with what precedes and follows, is important—in vv18-25 our Savior warns His disciples about the hatred of this world, and then in 16:1-4, He specifically warns them about the persecution awaiting them—in verses 26-27, our Savior promises the gift of the Spirit to enable them to be effective witnesses in spite of this world's opposition, hatred, and persecution...

How would these men, and the church after them, bear witness for Christ in the face of such resistance—well, the Spirit of truth will equip them for this task—He would be sent as a Helper, to assist them in bearing witness for Christ...

#### I. The Spirit's Testimony—v26

#### II. The Saint's Testimony—v27

#### I. The Spirit's Testimony—v26

1. There are four great truths in v26, that relate to the testifying or bearing witness ministry of the Holy Spirit...
2. [1] He is given as a helper—the Greek word rendered Helper is *paraclete* which literally means "to come along side"...
3. It's translated differently by various translations as Comforter, Counselor, and Helper—by Counselor isn't meant what we think of by counselor...
4. Technically speaking, a counselor refers to legal representation—someone who testifies on behalf of another (it's rendered Advocate in 1Jn.2:1)...
5. Thus, the Holy Spirit testifies of the truth to our soul—He brings comfort to our hearts—He helps us in all that we do...
6. I mentioned several weeks ago—I personally prefer the more generic term Helper, which includes all the rest...
7. The Spirit helps us in every aspect of life—He testifies, comforts, strengthens, encourages, purifies, and motivates...
8. In short—the Holy Spirit helps us to do everything God commands—this is true for the apostles and also for us...
9. [2] He is sent by the glorified Christ—"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father..."
10. The sending of the Spirit is future—"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send"—this was fulfilled at Pentecost...

11. This of course does not mean the Spirit was not present on earth, working in the hearts of God's beloved people...
12. But, it simply underscores the fact—that Christ sends the Spirit as the exulted King, to make known His victory...
13. V7—"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you..."
14. Thus, from the Day of Pentecost onward, the Spirit is given in a unique way, a way He was not given before...
15. He comes as the Spirit of the exulted Christ, to give a fuller revelation of Christ, and gather Jews and Gentiles for Christ...
16. [3] He proceeds from the Father—"the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father"—the word rendered "proceeds" means "to go forth or come from..."
17. It here refers to what historically has been called "the eternal procession of the Spirit"—this is an eternal and essential reality...
18. The Son eternally is begotten of the Father and the Spirit eternally proceeds from the Father and from the Son...
19. This simply means—the Spirit is eternally and essentially God, and yet, He is distinct from the Father and Son...
20. Thus, the Spirit bears witness of Christ, because the Spirit, as eternal God, is perfectly qualified to testify of Him...
21. 1Jn.5:6—"It is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth"—that is, He is the truth or the true God...
22. This is likely the primary reason our Savior here mentions the Spirit's procession—to underscore His divinity...
23. The One who here testifies of Christ is perfectly qualified—He was privy to the plan of redemption from the beginning...
24. [4] He testifies of Christ—"the Spirit of truth...He will testify of Me"—He is the Spirit of truth as He testifies of the Truth...
25. To testify is to bear witness—it's to give evidence that something is true—it's to testify on someone's behalf...
26. Our Savior says the Spirit will "testify of Me"—that is, the Spirit will bear witness to the truth of His person and work...
27. [a] He testifies of Christ in the Scripture—this is why our Savior speaks of Him as the Spirit of truth in this verse...
28. He is the Spirit of truth—He gives the truth through the apostles—He would inspire them to write the NT Scripture...
29. The first way the Spirit bears witness of Christ is—He gives the Holy Scripture, which bears witness of Him...
30. The Spirit would inspire men to write the NT Scripture—He would reveal to these men the truth about Christ...
31. Jn.5:39—"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me..."
32. The OT Scripture testifies of Christ—or, put another way, the Old and NT Scripture is the Spirit's testimony of Christ..
33. Rev.1:1-2—"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw (1:9)..."
34. I suggest it's best to understand the phrases "the word of God" and "the testimony of Jesus Christ" as synonymous...
35. In other words—the word of God is the testimony of Jesus Christ, because Christ is the scope of Holy Scripture...
36. [b] He testifies of Christ in the conscience—that is, He takes the objective word of God and applies it to the soul...

37. This testimony is effectual and results in a soul believing the truth about Christ, as revealed in the pages of Scripture...
38. The Spirit uses Scripture to convince the soul, of the truth of the gospel, and its saving interest in that gospel...
39. This aspect of the Spirit's work is elaborated on in 16:5-11—He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment...
40. Thus, the Holy Spirit takes His objective testimony of Christ in Scripture, and applies it to individual souls...
41. Rom.8:16—"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God"—that we belong to Christ...
42. The Spirit convinces us about the truth of Christ, and, about the truth of Christ as it relates to our own soul...
43. While the Spirit has born witness of Christ in Scripture, man by nature will never believe it without this inward testimony...
44. No one will believe the Spirit's outward testimony of Christ, without this inward and effectual testimony of Christ...
45. And yet, we must not limit this inward testimony of the Spirit to His initial work in the heart at the point of conversion...
46. But the Spirit also testifies of the truth of Scripture within the hearts of God's people to strengthen them against unbelief...
47. John Calvin—"The testimony of the Spirit is more excellent than all reason. For as God alone is a fit witness of himself in his Word, so also the Word will not find acceptance in men's hearts before it is sealed by the inward testimony of the Spirit. The same Spirit, therefore, who has spoken through the mouths of the prophets must penetrate into our hearts to persuade us that they faithfully proclaimed what had been divinely commanded..."
48. Thus, the Spirit ongoingly testifies of the truth of Scripture, within the hearts and consciences of God's people...
49. This is why those people who reject the truth of Scripture increase their guilt, because they reject the Spirit's testimony...
50. To reject the truth of Scripture, is the same thing as rejecting the Spirit's testimony, as found within that Scripture...
51. Thus, the Spirit goes beyond His testimony in Scripture, and He bears witness to that testimony in the heart...
52. That's why no person will ever believe the truth of Scripture without this inward testimony of the Holy Spirit...
53. For example—a lady called me last week and wanted to know if she could ask me a question about Christianity...
54. Well, I said, Of course—and she asked me a question about faith and works—and I told her we were saved by faith not works...
55. She became upset and began to speak negatively of Christians—she said, this is why she is not a Christian...
56. I then began to tell her about native depravity, and how no man does anything good by nature—No not one (quoting from Rom.3)...
57. She then said she doesn't believe in the NT—she claimed to be Jewish, and said she rejects the NT Scripture...
58. Why does she reject the Spirit's testimony of Christ in the OT and NT—because the Spirit has never bore witness with her spirit that Scripture is true...
59. All of our attempts to prove that Scripture is God's word will be in vain, without the testimony of the Spirit...
60. Jn.19:35—"And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe..."
61. [a] The apostle's testimony—"And he who has seen has testified"—John testified by writing this fourth gospel...

62. [b] The Spirit's testimony—"and he knows he is telling the truth"—this is the result of the Spirit testifying with His spirit...
63. Jn.21:24—"This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true.."
64. It very likely that these final two verses were written by associates of John, who with him in the church at Ephesus...
65. [a] The apostle testified of these things—He testified of them, and He wrote them down in the previous 20 chapters...
66. [b] The Spirit testified of these things—"and we know that his testimony is true"—that is, these men believed John's testimony...
67. Why did they believe John's testimony as found in the previous 20 chapters, but because the Spirit testified to them...
68. The things that John wrote were true, and whether or not these other men knew that didn't change anything...
69. The Spirit of God testified through John of these things—He enabled John to write them down in this book...
70. But—these men knew these things were true, because the Spirit testified to their hearts, the truthfulness of them...

## II. The Saint's Testimony—v27

1. The relation of v27 to v26 is evident—the Holy Spirit would testify of Christ through the ministry of the apostles...
2. [1] Who testifies—"And you also will bear witness"—that is, the apostles would also testify in addition to the Spirit...
3. The testimony of the Spirit and the apostles was related—they both testified of the person and work of Christ...
4. Or perhaps, put another way—the Holy Spirit testified of Christ, through the public ministry of the apostles...
5. Acts 1:8—"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth..."
6. Acts 5:32—"And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him..."
7. Which is it?—did the apostles testify or did the Spirit?—well both—the Spirit testified through the apostles...
8. [2] Why they testify—"because you have been with Me from the beginning"—that is, they were uniquely qualified to testify...
9. The apostles had personally witnessed these events—they were with Him from the beginning of His ministry...
10. Thus, just as the Spirit is qualified to testify, because He proceeds from the Father, so the apostles have been with Christ from the beginning of His ministry...
11. 1Jn.1:1-2—"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of Life—the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us (Lk.24:48-49; Acts 1:21-22)..."
12. [3] How they testify—I suggest, similar to our Savior, the apostles bore witness through their words and works...
13. That is, they testified of Christ by their preaching and miracles—these both bore witness of Christ (acts 14:3)...
14. Acts 4:33—"And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all..."
15. Acts 10:39-43—"And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Him God raised up on the third day, and showed Him openly, not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, *even* to us who ate and drank with

Him after He arose from the dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins..."

16. Thus, in closing, I want to make application of this passage to the church as a whole and not just the apostles...
17. That is, though this passage has a peculiar reference to the apostles, it says something very important to all Christians...
18. The command to bear witness of and for Christ applies to every disciple and not merely the twelve apostles...
19. [a] The Spirit helps us to testify to the world—as I mentioned earlier, vv26-27 are closely related to what goes before and after...
20. The apostles were to testify before a hostile and God-hating world—a world that also hated the people of God...
21. How were these weak and needy men to testify before a crowd, knowing they would likely give their lives...
22. Acts 1:8—"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me..."
23. The only way poor and needy Christians are to testify to this intimidating world, is by the power of the Spirit...
24. How does the Spirit embolden us to bear witness to this world?—but by bearing witness to the truth in our hearts...
25. That is, He gives us a stronger sense and assurance of the truth within our own souls—He convinces us of the truth...
26. One reason Christian people fail to testify to this world is because they fail to know the truth in their hearts...
27. That is, they fail to know the power of that truth—it's to the degree we know the truth we testify of that truth...
28. 2Tim.1:7-8—"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord..."
29. [b] The Spirit helps us to testify of the truth—the Spirit does not assist us to testify of our own opinions and views...
30. The apostles were commissioned to be witnesses of the truth, and not about trivial things that really don't matter...
31. To bear witness means we testify to what God has revealed—we are not to bear witness to our own thinking...
32. This of course is why the world hates us, because we bear witness of the truth—we testify of truth in the midst of lies...
33. Oh my friends, there is a sense in which the entire world is drowning in a sea of lies, and we only have the truth...
34. Furthermore, we ONLY have the truth—there are not many truths—there is only one truth, and we have it (it's the truth of God's word)...
35. [c] The Spirit helps us to testify about Christ—this is the grand work of the Spirit, to glorify and make known Christ...
36. We must testify of His Person—that He is the eternal Son of God, become flesh—He is the Messiah—the Godman...
37. We must testify of His work—He lived a perfect life, died a substitutionary death, and resurrected victorious over the grave...
38. We must testify of His power—that He can break the chains of slavery—He can rescue poor sinners from hell...
39. We must testify of His love—that He is gracious and merciful—and that He truly and sincerely loves sinners...
40. We must testify of His faithfulness—that is, He will never leave nor forsake us—what He starts He finishes...