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# Sermon Notes

June 9, 2019

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

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## The Helper

John 14:16-17

### What Is Your Name?

- ❖ On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus speaks with His disciples about someone He calls "the Helper", "the Spirit of truth", and, later on, "the Holy Spirit"
  - in various translations, **Helper** = Counselor, Comforter, Advocate, or Paraclete
  - each one of these names only gets at one aspect of the name Jesus uses
  - **paraklêtos** = one who is called alongside to help by providing guidance or encouragement
    - one who gives protection, help, security
    - one who appears in another's behalf as an advocate, defender, intercessor
- ❖ **Don't let your hearts be troubled**, Jesus says, "I'm leaving, but someone else is coming."
  - **ANOTHER** Helper
  - another of the same kind
  - Jesus is sending a Helper who is the same kind of Helper that He is

- ❖ The Holy Spirit is a person NOT a power
  - our Helper is CO-eternal and CO-equal with God the Father and God the Son
  - our Helper is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent
  - you cannot receive "more" of the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit can receive more of you!
- ❖ The Helper knows your distress, your hurts, your sorrows
- ❖ The Helper identifies with you in all your hurts, cares, anxieties and stress and He brings comfort, consolation, hope, strength and healing to you

### Where Do You Live?

- ❖ Jesus says if you believe in Him and follow Him, the Helper lives **with** you and **in** you
- ❖ God has always intended to live with or dwell among His people (1 Kings 8:27, Exodus 33:14, Ezekiel 37:27, Zechariah 2:10, John 1:14, 2 Corinthians 6:16)
- ❖ Though Jesus will no longer be physically present with His followers, He will not abandon them
  - the Helper's presence with Jesus' followers is not temporary, and it is not a "short-term relationship"
  - Jesus says, "He will **be with you forever** "
  - this is not symbolic language, this is tangible reality
- ❖ How aware are you of God's presence alive and at work within you?

## What Do You Do?

- ❖ The Helper has many functions and plays many different roles in your life
- ❖ The Holy Spirit's primary role is to bring glory to Christ (John 16:14)
  - the Helper keeps you focused on Jesus
  - the Helper helps you understand the significance of Jesus' person and ministry
  - the Spirit never preempts the place Jesus is meant to occupy in our heads and hearts
- ❖ The Helper continues and builds on the ministry Jesus began on earth
  - just like Jesus, the Helper teaches (John 16:13)
  - just like Jesus, the Helper gives witness to the truth (John 15:26)
  - just like Jesus, the Helper prays for us (Romans 8:26)
  - just like Jesus, the Helper convicts the world of sin (John 16:8)
- ❖ The Helper serves as both a prosecuting attorney for the sin of the world and a defense attorney for those who belong to Jesus

- ❖ The Helper supports our witness for Christ
- ❖ As our Comforter, the Helper gives Christ's followers the strength they need to stand up in the face of opposition
  - what the Bible means by "Comforter" is one who is with you to strengthen you
  - the example of Peter
  - "The Holy Spirit is our battle partner who covers our blind side and fights for our well-being." [Gordon Dalbey]

## Personal Reflection

1. Do you tend to think of the Holy Spirit as "a person" or as "a power"? Does your thinking about this need an "upgrade"?
2. Which of the several names that Scripture uses to describe the person and work of the Holy Spirit are most important/helpful to you at this seasons of life? Why is this so?
3. How aware are you of God's presence alive and at work within you?
4. How is the Helper working to bring glory to Christ in and through you?
5. Is the Holy Spirit serving you as a "prosecuting attorney" or a "defense attorney"? How do you know this is so?