

John 14:15-17: The Spirit of Comfort

- *Paraklētos*: Greek word variously translated (ESV “Helper”; NIV “Counselor”; NLT “Advocate”; KJV “Comforter”): *para*=beside, alongside of; *klētos*=one who is called; “One who is called alongside of you”
- Comforter: not in modern sense of consolation, but in etymological sense (Latin): *com*=with, together; *fortis*=strong; “One who is with you to strengthen you”
- “another Comforter”: distinct in person from Jesus, but like Him in nature

The Holy Spirit is given by the Father and the Son to fortify us for loving obedience.

How does the Spirit fortify us for loving obedience?

1. The Spirit fortifies us by instilling Truth in us.
 - a. “even the Spirit of Truth”
 - i. “whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him”: cf. Matt. 12:22-32 “The Pharisees said, ‘It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.’ . . . Jesus said, ‘But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. . . . Every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.’”
 - ii. “You know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” They know Him because he *presently* dwells with them in the Christ (“without measure,” John 3:34), and *will* indwell them upon Christ’s ascension.
 - iii. John 14:25-26: “He will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”
 - iv. John 15:26-27 “He will bear witness about Me. And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”
 - v. John 16:13-14 “He will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you.”
 - b. Apostolic writings: Remembrance is important; these are not mystical experiences separated from Jesus’ teaching and the OT. They have the objective truth of God in the OT Scriptures and the teaching of Jesus. The Spirit works to infallibly and perfectly put all the pieces together. Jesus Himself will give them 40 days of intense instruction about the Kingdom of God after His resurrection, putting many pieces together, and the Holy Spirit will ensure that their witness is True.
 - c. Illumination of the Scriptures: 1 Cor. 2:13 “And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting Spiritual truths (Divine Revelation) to those who are Spiritual (taught by the Spirit).” 2 Cor. 3:15-18 “Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now the Spirit is the LORD (Yahweh), and where the Spirit of the LORD is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the LORD (Jesus), are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the LORD who is the Spirit.” (cf. Eph. 1:16; 3:16-19)
 - d. We are not promised extra-biblical revelations from the Spirit. We are promised that the Spirit will give us understanding of God’s revelation in the Bible and wisdom to apply His Truth to life.
2. The Spirit fortifies us by inhabiting us with the Father and the Son.
 - a. 14:17 “He will be in you.”
 - b. 14:18-24 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. . . . In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. . . . and we will come to Him and make our home with Him.”
 - c. 2 Cor. 13:14 “the fellowship of the Holy Spirit”: The Spirit is the bond of love between believers and the Triune God. He communicates God’s love to us and creates a reciprocal love in us toward God. This bond of love produces obedience/fruit.
 - d. You are not left alone to face the hatred of the world and the complexities of life (John 16:26-27).