

The Believer's Best Friend & Closest Companion
– The Holy Spirit: Our Comforter

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Holy Spirit

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Bible Text: John 14:15; John 14:21-24

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Today we want you to join us in our Bible study. We are studying the gospel of John which is a book that tells us about the nature of Jesus Christ. If you think about one book of the Bible that gives us a theology of Jesus, it is the book of John. It shows us his deity. It shows us he is the Messiah. It shows us he is Lord. It shows his identity with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And here in John chapter 14 we are going to learn some tremendous truth today about the third person of the trinity, that being the Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Notice, if you will, John 14. We will begin our reading with verse 15.

You recall from last week Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments."¹

And we saw that if we really love Jesus we are going to obey him. If we really love the Lord we are going to desire to do his will, to keep his Word, to obey the Bible.

Now he says in verse 16, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever."²

Do you know, my friends, it is impossible to keep the commandments without the Holy Spirit? It is absolutely impossible to obey God unless you have a power that doesn't originate with you. We need the energy, the ability, the motivation of the Spirit of God in order to obey God. And so now he is talking about the Spirit.

Notice, if you will, verse 17.

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because

¹ John 14:15.

² John 14:16.

I live, ye shall live also. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.³

Skip down, if you will, down to verse 26.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”⁴

Let’s bow for a moment of prayer and ask God to teach us these very important Scriptures today. Let’s pray.

Lord, we come to you in the name of Jesus asking you to teach us, to feed us, to allow us, Lord, to appreciate the Spirit of God who dwells within us. For you have said that our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit and that you, dear God, live in us. Help us to see who it is who lives in us. And may we submit to you and yield to you?

I pray, dear God, that you will bless every person listening to this message with the great truths about the Holy Spirit. I pray this in Jesus’ wonderful name. Amen.

Sometimes even believers can feel lonely. Even believers can at times feel weak, worn out, beaten down by the devil, the world, the flesh. Sometimes even believers can have tough times and difficult times. But I am glad I can tell you, my friends, you are never alone. For Jesus has promised us that his Holy Spirit would be with us, in us, dwelling within us. No matter where you go, the Holy Spirit is there if you are a believer. No matter what you do, you bring the Holy Spirit along with you.

The Bible says:

... that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.⁵

Boy, it is a blessing to know that God’s Spirit lives in my heart and that I have a friend who will stick through thick and thin. I have a comforter that will encourage me, that will help me, that will sustain me no matter what I face in life. What a great blessing it is to be a believer and to have the Holy Spirit living in us who is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

But there is a lot of confusion in our world about the Holy Spirit just as there is confusion about the Lord Jesus Christ. So today out of this gospel and also in other parts of the Bible we want to see who the Holy Spirit is and what he is doing, who he is and what he wants to do in your life and in mine.

³ John 14:27-20.

⁴ John 14:26.

⁵ 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

We have eight features of the blessed Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts found in our text in verses 16 and following and I would like us to look at these important truths and so I hope you will think with me about the third person of the trinity, the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Spirit? Well, we find in verse 16 and throughout that the Holy Spirit is a person. What I mean by that, not that he has a physical, tangible body, but that he is personal. We say our God is a personal God. In other words, he is a God you can know. He is a God who loves. He is a God who gives, who is active. He is not a mere force. We don't speak of God as the impersonal force, but rather of a loving Father.

When we speak of the Holy Spirit we should also not interpret him as being a force or an impersonal essence, but a real individual, a person with personality. As a matter of fact, the Scripture here identifies the Holy Spirit with the relative pronouns in verses 16 and following. Notice what it says about him.

“And I will pray the Father, and he [the Father] shall give you another Comforter [notice that he...”⁶ Who is the he there referring to? The Comforter, the Spirit. That the Spirit may abide with you forever.

Does he refer to the Spirit as an it?

No. It is a he because he is personal.

Notice in verse 17, “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not.”⁷

Notice it is not an it. He is a him.

“...neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”⁸

And so over and over again the Holy Spirit is identified as a personal being.

As a matter of fact, if you know anything about the Jehovah's Witnesses' cult, they view the Holy Spirit as a mere force or as an influence. But Jesus describes him as being a person with personality as evidenced by the personal pronouns that we see all throughout the context here in John 14.

As a matter of fact if you have studied Greek you know that the word for “spirit” is a neuter term. The word “spirit” is a neuter word, meaning neutral in gender. In Greek you have three genders, masculine, feminine and neuter, right?

⁶ John 14:16.

⁷ John 14:17.

⁸ John 14:17.

The word “spirit” πνευμα (pnyoo'-mah) is a neuter word.

Also a rule in the Greek language is whenever you have a relative pronoun, that relative pronoun will agree with the word it is describing in number and gender.

But do you want to know something, my friends? The Greek grammar rule is ignored because God wants us to know that even though the word “spirit” is a neuter word, he uses a masculine pronoun in reference to the Holy Spirit to let us know that he is a personal God. That is amazing. Over and over again the masculine pronoun is used in reference to the Holy Spirit showing us that he is not a thing. He is not an it. He is a him. And Christ always spoke of the Holy Spirit as a person and never a mere influence. But do you know we also find in our text that the Holy Spirit does the works of a person? Not only does he have the pronouns of a person—he, him—but he does the acts. He teaches, verse 26, an impersonal force doesn't teach. Electricity is a force. It is not going to teach you anything. I mean, you may learn something if you touch it. But it is not going to teach you, right, Mark Welleneck? It may teach you not to touch those wires together, right?

It is not merely something like electricity or some impersonal force, but the Spirit is a personal God. He teaches. He brings to remembrance. He testifies of Christ, John 15:26. He convicts of sin, John 16:8. He guides into truth, John 16:13. He hears, speaks and shows also John 16:13. He bore along or carried the writers of Scripture so that they wrote exactly what God wanted in that inspiration process. He spoke to Philip commanding him to go to the eunuch in Acts eight. He called Barnabas and Saul into the ministry and sent them forth on the journeys, Acts 13. He forbade Paul and Silas to travel into north Galatia, Acts 16. He makes intercession for believers, Romans eight verse 26. A force doesn't do any of these things.

He bears witness with our spirits that we are the sons of God, Romans 8:14.

The Holy Spirit is a personal being.

He possesses intellect or knowledge. He is capable of thought. That is why Paul speaks of him as searching the mind of the spirit, the Spirit knows and searches the things of God, 1 Corinthians 2:10. He has the ability to utilize language and words, 1 Corinthians 2:13. He expresses emotion.

You know his emotion. In Ephesians 4:30 it says he can be grieved which means caused to sorrow. A force doesn't become sad. The Holy Spirit does when you sin.

He loves, Romans 15 and verse 30. He possesses a will. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:11 that the Spirit distributes gifts to those whom he will. The Holy Spirit can be treated like a person. He is lied to in Acts 5:3, although he is never deceived. He is tested, Acts five verse nine, although he will never again give in. He is resisted in Acts seven verse 51. He is outraged, Hebrews 10 verse 29. He can be blasphemed, Matthew

12:31 which Jesus said there is no forgiveness for blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. He can be called upon, Ezekiel 37 and verse nine.

Over and over again throughout the Word of God the Spirit is identified as a personal being, not a mere force.

When we think of this just because we can't see the Holy Spirit we tend to not view him as personal, but he is and he lives in you if you are a believer.

Let me show you something else out of our text about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is of the same nature as Jesus Christ.

Notice verse 16, a very interesting word. He says, "I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter."⁹

Now why did he say "another"? Well, because Jesus was a comforter. Jesus gave comfort, encouragement to his disciples. But he was about to leave. He was now going to go to the cross, was going to be buried. Yes, he would rise again. Yes, he would see his disciples. But then he would ascend to heaven and physically he wouldn't be walking on the earth. But does that mean that he would leave his disciples all alone? No. He says, "I am going to send you another comforter, another of the same kind as me." That is the word "another."

There are two Greek words that are translated "another" in the Bible. One is the word *ἄλλος* (al'-los) which means another of the same kind. That is the word used here. There is another word that is translated "another" and that is the word *ἕτερος* (het'-er-os). Perhaps you here hetero-, heterosexual. *ἕτερος* (het'-er-os) means another of a different kind, right?

Now in Galatians chapter one Paul writes that if anyone preaches another gospel—and that word "another" means another of a different kind. He also speaks about those who believe a false gospel as having another Jesus and he uses the word *ἕτερος* (het'-er-os) again meaning another of a different kind. And so the word he uses here, though, means another of the same kind. So what Jesus is saying is this. "I am going to leave, but I am going to send you another of like nature as me. I am going to send you another comforter who has the same attributes and essence as myself."

Now the Islamic faith, if you study the Muslim faith, they interpret this phrase, "another comforter" as referring to the prophet, their prophet, who would come much later, that being Mohammed. They say when Jesus here speaks about him praying to the Father and the Father giving another comforter, that that comforter would be Mohammed, that he would be the fulfillment of this promise of Jesus.

⁹ John 14:16.

However, the end of verse 16 would nullify that possibility because it says that he would abide with you forever. Mohammed was never with the disciples to whom Jesus spoke here nor did he remain forever. But he died and did not rise again. It could not refer to Mohammed.

As a matter of fact, another of the same kind would definitely disprove that for if you study Mohammed and you study Jesus you will see they are worlds apart and Mohammed is not another of the same kind with our precious Lord Jesus.

The Holy Spirit would be sent by the Father in the name of the Son, verse 26. He is clearly associated with the Father and Son in such a way as to properly categorize him as part of deity, the godhead, the third person of the trinity.

And so the Holy Spirit, he has the same nature as Jesus Christ.

Thirdly we see that the Holy Spirit walks with us side by side as our sole encourager.

Notice verse 16 once again. He says, "I will send you, I will give you another comforter."

What a word that word comforter is. It is the Greek word παρακλητον (par-ak'-lay-ton) from the word παρα (pa'-ra) which means along side or next to and the word καλεω (kal-eh'-o) which means to call or to summon.

Hey, my friends, you want to know who the Holy Spirit is? He is the one summoned along our side. He is the one who is right with us step by step. He is the one who accompanies you through life. Jesus says, "I am going to send the paraklete, the one who will accompany you as your helper, your advocate or your defense attorney, your encourager, your companion, your advisor, your strength giver, your interceder." And all of those features are wrapped up in that word, comforter, the one who is along our side to stand up on our behalf.

Boy, it is a real blessing to have him, the Holy Spirit walking with us, encouraging our souls. The Holy Spirit gives us so many abilities. You think about it. Without him what could we really do in life? Nothing. We couldn't accomplish anything without him. But the Holy Spirit lives in us and he gives us the ability to worship.

What did Jesus say to the woman at the well? "Those who worship God must worship in Spirit." That is the Holy Spirit. "And in truth." It is the Spirit who gives us the ability to worship. It is the Spirit who gives us the ability to pray with wisdom.

Ephesians 6:18, "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."¹⁰

¹⁰ Ephesians 6:18.

And so it is the Spirit that guides our prayer life. The Spirit gives us the ability to understand the Word of God, 1 Corinthians 2:10 and following and also Ephesians 1:17 says, “That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.”¹¹

Romans 5:5 Paul speaks about the Spirit giving us the ability to love God. He says, “And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the...”¹²

Anyone want to take a guess? Holy Spirit, which is given unto us.

How is it that you can love God? By the Spirit.

The Bible describes him as giving us the ability to love others.

Scripture teaches in Colossians 1:8, {“ Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.”¹³

Romans 15:30. “Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ’s sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me.”¹⁴

And so it is the Spirit who gives us the ability to love one another. He gives us the ability to love and be united with other believers.

Ephesians four and verse three. “Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”¹⁵

Who is it that unites us together? It is the Spirit of God who glues God’s people together. He gives us the ability to conquer sin.

Romans 8:13. “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”¹⁶

He gives us the ability to be strong in the inner man, Ephesians 3:16. “That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.”¹⁷

He gives us the ability to be virtuous, Galatians 5:22. It is the Spirit that produces the fruit of “love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness,

¹¹ Ephesians 1:17.

¹² Romans 5:5.

¹³ Colossians 1:8.

¹⁴ Romans 15:30.

¹⁵ Ephesians 4:3.

¹⁶ Romans 8:13.

¹⁷ Ephesians 3:16.

temperance: against such there is law.”¹⁸ Those are all fruit of the Holy Spirit. You don’t have them in and of yourself.

He gives us the ability to live life without fear, 2 Timothy 1:7. “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”¹⁹

He gives us the ability to be encouraged or comforted, Acts nine and verse 31. “Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost”²⁰

He gives us the ability to be bold when we are witnessing, Acts four verse eight.

“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them...”²¹ and then he preaches a whole mighty powerful sermon.

See, what I am saying is, it is the Spirit of God that accompanies us and blesses us and uses us and equips us for what we need in life. What a blessing it is to have the comforter by our side.

Let me show you another thing about the Holy Spirit. He abides with us always and forever. Notice verse 16, the end of the verse.

“...that he may abide with you for ever.”²²

How long does the Holy Spirit stick around? Forever. He is not like some people here today, gone tomorrow. He is not like some who are unfaithful. He is not like some spouses that depart from their mate. No, the Holy Spirit sticks forever. The Bible says he will abide, he will remain, he will stay with you forever, literally into the ages.

The Lord Jesus would be leaving in physical form. But he says, “I will not leave you comfortless.”²³

In other words, in verse 18, “I will not leave you [orphans]: I will come to you.”²⁴

And once he would come, he would never leave.

I will tell you, my friends. One of the best proofs for the eternal security of the believer is the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit. You know, there are some who believe that a believer can lose his salvation. I don’t believe that. Now I believe there are some that profess salvation, but don’t possess salvation and so when they defect into part and

¹⁸ Galatians 5:22-23.

¹⁹ 2 Timothy 1:7.

²⁰ Acts 9:31.

²¹ Acts 4:8.

²² John 14:16.

²³ John 14:18.

²⁴ Ibid.

apostatize it is not that they had it and lost it, it is that they never had it to begin with. But when you have salvation you will never lose it. Why not? Because the Spirit is not leaving you. He is going to abide with you forever.

Go with me to Ephesians one. Put your book marker here. We will be right back. But go to Ephesians chapter one. I want you to see a great truth about the Holy Spirit of God.

By the way, we have the whole trinity involved in our salvation here in Ephesians one. He says in verse three, "Blessed is God the Father." So the Father is involved. Why? Because he chose us, verse four. But then the Son of God is mentioned in verse five of Ephesians one.

"Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ."²⁵

Verse six, "To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved."²⁶ That is in Christ.

"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."²⁷

So here we find the Father planned our salvation before the foundation of the world. The Son provided our salvation by giving his life on the cross and shedding his blood.

But let me show you now, my friends, it is the Holy Spirit that preserves your salvation. The Father planned it. The Son provided it, but the Spirit preserves it or protects it.

Notice, if you will, verse 13.

In whom, [speaking of Christ] ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel [or good news] of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, [notice, after you believed] ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.²⁸

There the Holy Spirit Spirit seals us, preserves us until the day Christ comes back for us.

Now that phrase, "the earnest of our inheritance" is interesting. Earnest is a down payment, a deposit, perhaps you have heard of earnest money. If you put down a deposit it is often referred to in legal terms as earnest. And here the Holy Spirit is the earnest or the deposit of God, the down payment that has been given on our behalf.

It is interesting that the Greek word for engagement ring is ἀρραβώνα (ar-hrab-ohn' -

²⁵ Ephesians 1:5.

²⁶ Ephesians 1:6.

²⁷ Ephesians 1:7.

²⁸ Ephesians 1:13-14.

ah). The word “earnest” is ἀρραβών (ar-hrab-ohn’). And so it is interesting that here we have the Holy Spirit is our deposit, just like that engagement ring is a promise of something in the future. The Holy Spirit is a promise given to you as a guarantee that you are going to heaven.

Now I could lose salvation if my salvation wasn’t sealed and secured. But I have the seal of the Holy Spirit and so do you, if you are saved. And the seal of the Spirit, the seal speaks of security. It speaks of ownership. It speaks of protection and the Spirit does all of that for us. And the Holy Spirit will be with us until Jesus comes back to pick up his property, his children.

My mother used to shop at Bradlees. I think they went out of business last year. But when she used to get us clothing in the summer to get ready for the fall and she didn’t always have all the money on hand, so she would go over to Bradlees and she would go to a counter called the layaway counter. Any of you remember that? Do they still do that? They still do layaway? They can still trust people?

Well, anyway, and so Mrs. Sawyer would put down some cash. She would say, “I am going to get Vinnie that purple colored shirt.”

And I said, “I will never wear that shirt.”

No. She didn’t buy me one of those at Bradlees, but she bought us kids a lot of stuff. We would get our shoes, our shirts, our... all the stuff we would need for the new year at school and she would go up and she would say, “Here is the deposit. I would like to put these items on layaway.”

Now what did that mean? That meant that one day Mrs. Sawyer is coming back. Why? To pick up her purchased possession. She already gave the earnest. Now she is coming back to take that which she has already deposited on.

Do you know something? That is what Jesus did. Now his price was paid in full on the cross. The price was paid in full, not partial payment. Full payment. So that is a little different there. But Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit as a down payment guaranteeing that he is coming back to scoop up those that belong to him.

And that is why it says here that the Spirit is “the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession unto the praise of his glory.”²⁹

Do you know, my friends, the Holy Spirit is the one who abides with us forever? Boy, what a great truth that is.

I want you to see another feature about the Spirit of God. Go back to John 14 and notice verse 17.

²⁹ Ephesians 1:14.

“Even the Spirit of truth.”³⁰

What does that tell us about the Spirit? It tells us that he is connected with the truth because he tells the truth, he is the truth, he gives the truth. Everything about truth and the Spirit go hand in hand.

You see, the Bible is clear that the sin cursed world contains a lot of deception, a lot of lies. Who can you believe? What can you believe?

The Bible teaches about lying spirits which are spirits of demons, Revelation 16:13 and 14. The Bible speaks about spirits of divination which are deceivers. The Bible speaks about the Spirit of error, 1 John four and verse six.

But I will tell you, my friends, it is the Holy Spirit that is the author of truth, the giver of truth, the deliverer of truth.

John 15:26. “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.”³¹

John 16:13. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”³²

1 John 4:6. “We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.”³³

See, the Spirit is connected with the truth. He only leads in one direction and that is truth. Truth is 100 percent conformity to reality.

As I was thinking about what is a good definition of truth, I thought of this. Truth is 100 percent conformity to reality. What is reality? I mean, we live in a world of mirages, fake images, hypocrites, deceivers, lies, false information, deception and I am glad to tell you, my friends, that there is one who is the truth and who promotes the truth and that is the Spirit of God. Truth is 100 percent conformity to reality. What measures reality? God is reality. God is reality.

The devil has all kinds of lies out there, young people. He is going to try to deceive you. He is going to... he has all kinds of tricks. Jesus said he is a liar from the beginning. He is the Father of lies. He abode not in the truth and the old devil has a whole bunch of

³⁰ John 14:17.

³¹ John 15:26.

³² John 16:13.

³³ 1 John 4:6.

demons working with him to deceive, to put a fog over you, to get you to believe stuff that is not biblical.

But I will tell you, God is truth. And anything that conforms to God is reality. We need to be careful because there is a lot of stuff in this world that is not reality. It is fake. It is phony. But the Spirit is truth.

We live in a day when people don't want to hear truth. They have itching ears. They want people to tell them what they want to hear. They don't want truth. But I will tell you. A church that is going to uphold truth is going to be faithful to the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is going to bless that ministry and those people because they are hearing truth from God. So whether the world wants to hear it or not, may God give us the grace to always preach the truth even if people don't want to hear it because that is what the Spirit uses. He is the Spirit of truth. He never leaves you into error. The Holy Spirit who is truth is never going to lead you to disobey his Word. He is not going to say one thing and then say, "Well, I will make an exception for you."

No. He only leads consistently in the truth. And, of course, the truth is in Jesus. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. That is why the Spirit speaks of Christ because Christ is the truth. To know him is to know truth. But in our day people don't want to hear about Christ because they don't want to hear about truth. They would rather have you tell them lies, itch their ears.

And do you know something? We live in a relativistic society where they say truth is relative meaning that what is true today may not be true tomorrow. What is truth over there in that country may not be truth here.

You know, my friends, truth is not like that at all. Truth is consistent no matter where it hits and who it hits. Truth is truth. And that is why, by the way, we ought always be people of the truth, not liars, not deceivers, because the Spirit is truth and he dwells within us. He is the truth, tells the truth and gives the truth.

Let me show you something else about the Holy Spirit. In verse 17 at the end of the verse he exclusively dwells only in believers. He indwells only believers.

Verse 17. "Even the Spirit of truth; [notice!] whom the world cannot receive."³⁴

The world cannot. The world is not able to receive the Holy Spirit. They don't have the ability to receive the Spirit. Why? "Because it, [the *κοσμος* (*kos'-mos*)] seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you [in the person of Christ who is right there with them], and shall be in you."³⁵

He says, "The world," which is that unregenerate system of Satan, is not able to receive him. Why not? Because they don't see him and they don't know him.

³⁴ John 14:17.

³⁵ Ibid.

First they don't see him. See, the world is governed by their senses. Since the Spirit cannot be seen or comprehended by reason, he remains outside of the world's conscious experience. The world functions based on the five senses, what they can see, hear, touch, taste, smell. They function based on the empirical, the observable. If the Spirit could be seen it would take no faith to trust him. Believers simply accept God's Word about the Holy Spirit and function based on God's promises about the Spirit and therefore we know the Spirit. But the world, it doesn't see him so they say, "I don't believe in the Spirit. What are you talking about the Holy Spirit? Get into reality."

They don't realize that there is a reality beyond what you can see. There is a reality beyond what you can feel. There is a spirit world. The Holy Spirit is a personal God and he has chosen to remain invisible. Now he became incarnate and visible when Jesus walked the earth, but the Holy Spirit is still real, though you can't see him.

The world says, "I don't want that. What is that?" The world won't ever have the Spirit until they come to Christ.

You need to know Christ and therefore you will know the Holy Spirit as well for he is the Spirit of Christ.

But notice what Jesus says about the Spirit. He says, "He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."³⁶

Prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit was with them when after Pentecost from the day of Pentecost onward he would be in them.

Now this is important because the Holy Spirit's relationship toward believers was different under the Old Testament, under the law, under the old covenant than it is today in the Church age.

Now he says he will be with you, alongside of you. But then he will be in you, a different proposition. He will live inside of you.

What is different? Well, as I study my Old Testament I find that they had the Holy Spirit. But there was a different relationship with the Spirit in the Old Testament. His abiding presence was with them, but he didn't indwell them as he does the New Testament believer after the cross. The Holy Spirit's intimate indwelling was a future promise. It was something Jesus said would happen in the future and it did. It started on the day of Pentecost and it continues to this day.

But he was with the Old Testament saint with Moses and the 70 elders in Numbers 11, with the Judges like Othniel, Gideon and Jephthah and Samson. The Spirit came upon

³⁶ John 14:17.

kings like Saul or he came upon David, but David, you remember, said, “Lord, take not thy holy spirit from me.”³⁷

Why would he say that? Because in the Old Testament the Spirit could come upon a person and give him a special ability or special knowledge, but then he could leave that person. He says, “Don’t take thy spirit from me.” That is an Old Testament reality.

The messengers of Saul had the Spirit come upon them. Elisha had the Spirit come upon him. Azariah had the Spirit come upon him. Zechariah had the Spirit come upon him. But, you see, my friends, there is a different relationship that we have as New Testament believers than they had. They had the Spirit abiding with them, whereas we have the Spirit dwelling in us.

You know, the term “baptism of the Spirit” and the term “indwelling” cannot be applied to the Old Testament saint.

Jesus said that the baptism of the Spirit was future. It was prophetic, even from John the Baptist’s day. He said that he, John preached and said that he, Jesus, will baptize you with the Holy Spirit which was something totally new. The promise of the baptism of the Spirit is fulfilled in the book of Acts chapters one and two and all throughout the book of Acts until this day.

Every time somebody gets saved the Spirit comes in them and baptizes them into Jesus Christ.

So if you are a believer, guess who lives in you? The Spirit of God. That ought to change how you live. If you live your life with a conscious awareness that the Spirit of God dwells in you, it will affect how we live.

But sometimes we forget about him. But we can’t do that. He won’t let us forget about him. If we sin we grieve him. If we don’t listen to him, we quench him. But the Spirit is in a believer.

Let me show you something else about the Spirit. In verses 18 to 20 the Holy Spirit is in essence Jesus Christ in Spirit form.

Notice verse 18. He says, “I will not leave you comfortless.”³⁸

Now in verse 18 he doesn’t merely say, “I will send the Spirit.” He says, “I will come to you.”³⁹

³⁷ Psalm 51:11.

³⁸ John 14:18.

³⁹ Ibid.

Well, what does that mean? That means that the Spirit of God is Jesus Christ's Spirit. He is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son. He says, "I won't leave you comfortless." Literally, I won't leave you orphans.

It would be a terrible thing if he had left, Jesus left and then his disciples are all on their own without a heavenly Father, orphan children. He says, "I won't allow that. I will come."

Who will come? Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit. You see, we often say Christ lives in my heart. Is that true? Yeah, it does.

"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith."⁴⁰

Paul even wrote that.

"But as many as received him [Jesus Christ], to them gave he power to become the sons of God."⁴¹

He says, Revelation 3:20, "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him."⁴²

So who comes in to you? Jesus. How does he come in to you? Through the Holy Spirit.

See, Jesus here says, "I will come to you."

How does he live in us? By his Spirit. How does he enable us to do all things? You know the verse.

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."⁴³

How does Christ strengthen you? By the Holy Spirit.

See, as surely as the Spirit would be with them and in them, so would Christ. It would be impossible to differentiate the two. Just as the Son and the Father are indivisible, so the Son and the Spirit are indivisible.

Listen to 2 Corinthians 3:17.

"Now the Lord is that Spirit."⁴⁴

So much for those who believe the Spirit is just a force.

⁴⁰ Ephesians 3:17.

⁴¹ John 1:12.

⁴² Revelation 3:20.

⁴³ Philippians 4:13.

⁴⁴ 2 Corinthians 3:17.

The Jehovah's Witnesses better restudy their Bible.

2 Corinthians 3:17 says, "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."⁴⁵

Who is the Spirit? He is Lord. He is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Notice verse 19.

"Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also."⁴⁶

What a great verse that is. I could preach just that one verse. So when that one phrase, "Because I live, ye shall live also,"⁴⁷ that is a tremendous thought.

"Because I live," Jesus says, "you will live."

How is it that I live because he lives? Very simply, because he lives in me by the Spirit.

And the Spirit of God who lives within you is going to be the one who is going to blast you out of the grave. Just as the Spirit raised Christ from the dead, he is going to raise you from the dead. Because he lives and he lives in you, then you, too, will live.

In verse 20, "At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you."⁴⁸

Jesus is saying, "At that day..." At what day? Well, at the day of Pentecost when Jesus comes via the Spirit, verse 18, he says, "I will come. I won't leave you orphans."

Or it could mean also at the resurrection day when we rise to live eternally. That is when we will really know all over the tremendous reality of the oneness between God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and the reality of God living in us and giving us eternal life.

Do you know the Holy Spirit is one with the Son? That is why he is called the Spirit of Christ, Romans 8:9.

He is called the Spirit of Jesus Christ, Philippians 1:9.

He is called the Spirit of his Son, Galatians 4:6.

⁴⁵ 2 Corinthians 3:17.

⁴⁶ John 14:19

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ John 14:20.

And so Jesus said, “I am going to come by the Spirit.”

What tremendous theology we find in our text here about the Spirit of God.

Let me show you one more blessing. The Holy Spirit is our teacher of the Word of God who also brings God’s Word into remembrance.

Notice verse 25. “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.”⁴⁹

Jesus said, “I taught you this while I am with you.”

But guess what would happen? When he would leave they would forget. They wouldn’t remember everything he said when he was present. So he gives them another comforting assurance, the Spirit is going to teach you. And he is going to remind you.

Notice verse 26. “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost...”⁵⁰ And, by the way, the Ghost there is just a King James word for Spirit. We don’t view the Holy Spirit in a ghostly sense. It is just that it is an old term which refers to an invisible Spirit. So he is the holy, invisible Spirit, holy, of course, being set apart from all other spirits.

See, there are other spirit beings. There are angels like Michael and Gabriel and the cherubim and seraphim and all of those. There are multiple of good angels, multiplied in millions. Who knows how many? We don’t know.

But then there are other evil spirits as well, demons, like Lucifer, Satan and all his demonic host.

But the Holy Spirit is identified as holy because he is God.

“Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”⁵¹

He is the Spirit that is set apart from all other spirits. Human beings have a spirit. You are not just a body. You have a spirit. That is what separates you from animals. That is why I had some chicken and beef last night for dinner, because they don’t have spirits. Now if they had spirits I wouldn’t want to eat them. That is why we shouldn’t be cannibals and eat people because people are different than animals even though in our society they are trying to erase the differences between man and animals.

I was driving down the parkway the other day, Grand Central, and in front of me was this truck and it was an animal rescue unit. It looked just like an emergency truck, emergency van. You know, I mean the whole nine years.

I said, “What... you have got to be kidding me.”

⁴⁹ John 14:25.

⁵⁰ John 14:26.

⁵¹ Isaiah 6:3.

They have ambulances for people and now they have got ambulances for animals. Where have we gone? I will tell you where we have gone when we have rejected God and we rejected the fact that man was created in the image and likeness of God, then what makes us any different than animals? Nothing.

But when you have a biblical anthropology and you understand that we are different, we have a spirit. That makes us different. That is why man is made in the image and likeness of God because God is spiritual and God made man with a spirit so that we could have the capacity to communicate with him who is Spirit.

That is why he gave you a spirit to commune with him. But man's spirit is dead prior to salvation. He is dead in spirit. In relationship to God he is dead until God breathes into him new spiritual life and makes us quickened in Christ, alive in Christ.

But that is a rabbit trail.

My point here is that there are good angelic spirits. There are demonic spirits. There are human spirits. But there is only one Holy Spirit. And that is the Lord Jesus' Spirit.

He says, "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost [or the Holy Spirit], whom the Father will send in my name, he [the Spirit] shall teach you all things."⁵²

The Holy Spirit is our resident truth teacher. He is our indwelling truth teacher. That is why 1 John 2:20 says, "But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things."⁵³

1 John 2:27. "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him."⁵⁴

So, you know what? I have got the teacher living inside of me.

Have you ever read the book and as you are reading you say, "I don't know what the author means by this statement? I wish I could call him up on the phone and say, 'Hey, what did you mean by that paragraph 22 line four or whatever?'"?

And then he could give you an answer.

Well, do you know, my friends, as we read the Bible, we do have access to the one who wrote it. It is the Spirit of God. He guides us into all truth. And I can discern truth from error and you can discern truth from error if you are humble and willing.

⁵² John 14:26.

⁵³ 1 John 2:20.

⁵⁴ 1 John 2:27.

See, sometimes even Christians can become prideful and become clogged with our own ideas and therefore we are not open to truth so the Spirit of God has trouble even getting through to some thick heads of some believers. But if we are humble and say we are teachable, then the Spirit of God is our teacher. I don't need the Roman Catholic ministerial association to teach me. I don't need any professor of theology to teach me how to distinguish between truth and error. I have got that ability in the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is the one who lives inside of us.

Now, of course, that reference doesn't mean we don't need human teachers, for God uses pastors and he uses evangelists and he uses men of God to teach us spiritual truth. But it is the Spirit that gives you the ability to discern is this accurate. That is the Spirit of truth.

And, you know, my friends, he teaches us the deep things of God, 1 Corinthians two and verse 10. And not only does he teach us, but he brings things to remembrance. It says, "And bring all things to your remembrance,"⁵⁵ speaking to his disciples, "whatsoever I have said unto you."⁵⁶

Jesus said a lot to his disciples. He walked with them for over three years. He taught them. He did miracles. He did many things. But, you know, their hearts were not always where they ought to have been. They were somewhat distracted. The disciples sometimes were cloudy in their thinking, but guess who was going to come and remind them of what Jesus said?

He said, "I am going to send the Spirit and he is going to bring back to your remembrance everything I said and everything I taught you," which would be very needful for one special purpose. And what is that? For the production of Scripture.

As those disciple would write the gospels it would have to be that the Spirit of God would guide them. Otherwise, how could they remember everything he said? How could they remember some of those detailed discussions that Jesus had with them? It was only by the Spirit and the Spirit would bring back to the disciples those things that they had heard and would superintend them so that they would write down in sacred text in what would become Matthew, Mark, Luke and John the things that God wanted for us to know. It is the Spirit who gave them that information, who reminded them because they, like us, are good at forgetting.

Now even though this reminding in context deals with the Spirit reminding the 11 disciples about the words of Christ, the principle of the Spirit reminding the New Testament believer of God's Word is still a fact of reality. It is God's Spirit who brings to mind the exact Scripture when we need it.

There have been times where perhaps you have been witnessing to somebody and you just weren't quite sure what to say, but you had the Word when you needed it. You had

⁵⁵ John 14:26.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

the reference. You had the verse. That wasn't you. That was God 's Spirit bringing back to your remembrance.

As Lesley is in Bible school and, Martin, if they are taking a test over the Scripture, if you haven't studied don't expect the Holy Spirit to bring back anything to your remembrance. But if you have put in the time and you have worked and you have studied, you have meditated and memorized and you have worked, then I believe the Holy Spirit will guide you on that test. And the Holy Spirit will guide all of us if we will listen to the messages we hear.

I tell you. This message here today was full of theology about the Holy Spirit. You will have learned a lot if you were paying attention. You may leave here and forget a lot about what was said, but if you were paying attention, some day when you need it, it is going to be there. It is going to be there because the Spirit is going to bring it back to remembrance.

Jesus even said that in the future there would come a time of tribulation and persecution and God's people would stand up in front of kings and rulers and he says, "Don't meditate in advance what you are going to say.

He says, "But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost,"⁵⁷ Mark 13 verse 11.

He also said in Matthew 10:20, "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."⁵⁸

And so I believe that this promise of remembrance didn't merely apply to those disciples although immediately it did, but it applies to everyone including those who will live in the future tribulation period.

But the Lord Jesus Christ said to his disciples, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you."⁵⁹ And that power is available today. The Holy Spirit's power, though often misunderstood and neglected, is available for everyone in this room who is born again. The Christian life which begins by the power of the Spirit must also continue by the power of the Spirit, Galatians 3:3.

The Holy Spirit desires to daily commune with those that he indwells. He is jealous over his children, James 4:5. He wants to continually speak to his church. That is why Jesus said, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

⁵⁷ Mark 13:11.

⁵⁸ Matthew 10:20.

⁵⁹ Acts 1:8.

And so God's Spirit is a wonderful blessing and I hope that through God's Word today we will submit to him and yield to him and we will be filled with him so that our life will be filled with blessing.

I would like you all to bow your head and close your eyes for just a moment. And let us pray together.

We are so grateful, dear Lord, that you did not leave us orphans. We are not left to ourself. And we thank you that you have not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. And, dear God, I pray that you will bless everyone in this room who is born again with the fullness of your Spirit so that we will experience victory and triumph and success, spiritual battles would be won.

Dear God, I pray that you would fill us anew and afresh with your Spirit. Empower us. Give us your fruit of the Spirit. Give us your gifts of the Spirit that you would have for us to use that are operative for today. I pray that you, Lord, will just bless your people here in a very special way.

And then, Lord, I pray for many who might be in our room today without a relationship with the Spirit that as you said to Nicodemus, that which is born of the flesh is flesh, but that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. I pray that there would be people born of the Spirit today, born again by the power of the Spirit as you would lead them to Jesus. I pray that they would submit to you, Lord, as your Holy Spirit convicts them of their sin and of judgment and of righteousness that they would come to you, Lord. May they be saved. Help them not to reject you or not to ignore you. But I pray that they will listen to your Spirit.

Help all of us, especially, that have bodies which are temples of your Spirit to keep our body clean. May we not be involved in anything that would harm or defile our temple, knowing that you live inside and you will live inside forever. And we thank you for that.

Thank you for this message. Keep it, Lord, in our consciousness and help us to think about it and to meditate on it. We pray this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

The Believer's Best Friend & Closest Companion

(The Holy Spirit: Our Comforter)

John 14:16-26

1/6/01

Introduction



*** Believers in Christ: You are not alone; You have a friend who sticks closer than a brother!**

Observe eight features of the Blessed Holy Spirit who lives in your heart!

I. *The Holy Spirit is A PERSON (not an impersonal force)*

["he" (v.16)... "him" (v.17)... "teach you" (v.26)]

II. *The Holy Spirit is of the SAME NATURE AS JESUS CHRIST* (v.16a)

("another" = another of the same kind)

III. *The Holy Spirit WALKS WITH US SIDE BY SIDE AS OUR SOUL ENCOURAGER*

(v.16b) ("comforter")

IV. *The Holy Spirit ABIDES WITH US ALWAYS & FOREVER* (v.16c)

("abide with you forever")

V. *The Holy Spirit IS THE TRUTH, TELLS THE TRUTH, & GIVES THE TRUTH* (v.17a)

("the Spirit of truth")

VI. *The Holy Spirit EXCLUSIVELY INDWELLS ONLY BELIEVERS* (v.17b)

("the world cannot receive...ye know him...and (He) shall be in you")

VII. *The Holy Spirit is in essence – JESUS CHRIST IN SPIRIT FORM* (v.18-20)

("I will come to you"... "I in you")

VIII. *The Holy Spirit is our TEACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD, WHO BRINGS GOD'S WORD INTO REMEMBRANCE* (v.25-26)

