

Life in The Spirit

The Holy Spirit: Who is He?

Introduction: John opened his book by telling us that Jesus “came unto his own [world], and his own [people] received him not” (John 1:11). In the first twelve chapters, John presented one “witness after another, and one proof after another, to convince us that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God. All of this evidence was seen firsthand by the leaders of the nation, and yet they rejected His claims. Having been rejected by His own nation, Jesus then retired with His own disciples (John 13:1), whom he loved to the uttermost.”

Jesus just shifted the scene from a quiet dinner in Bethany with Martha, Mary and Lazarus to a noisy public parade in Jerusalem where he triumphantly entered Jerusalem. He knew it would be his last ride into that city during his earthly ministry. Was not coming there for a parade, he was riding to his own death.

That evening he gathers with his disciples over the last supper. His heart heavy with divine purpose. The disciples were also troubled – they heard him say he was leaving. They heard him speak of death. They watched him betrayed by Judas. What in the world is going on?

It is in this setting that Jesus gives His last and most powerful teaching – right before his death...

John 14:1-4 – **Let not your heart be troubled**; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. ⁴And where I go you know, and the way you know.”

John 14:12-18 - ¹²Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, **the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do**, because I go to My Father. ¹³And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*. ¹⁵“If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and He will give you **another Helper**, that **He** may abide with you forever— ¹⁷the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees **Him** nor knows **Him**; but you know **Him**, for **He** dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14: 25-27 - ²⁵“These things I have spoken to you while being present with you.²⁶ **But the Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He** will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

I would like you to write down 3 words:

PERSON / PURPOSE / POWER

Transition: Let's talk about "The Person" of the Holy Spirit by taking a moment and review what we ended with last week...

1. HE IS A PERSON:

What distinguishes a person from a force or thing... most people would say "life", but other created objects have "life", i.e., a tree... What sets a "person" apart is the soul.

What constitutes a soul: MIND / WILL / EMOTIONS

- Mind – thoughts
- Will – desire
- Emotions – feelings

He has a Mind

- Isaiah 55:8 - "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord.
- Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.
 - Nothing has ever occurred to God
- Philippians 2:5 - Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...

You have someone living inside of you who knows everything about everything and is committed to leading you into all truth.

He is not a power you use; He is a person to know!

He has a will

- We all know that there is something called "the will of God"
- There is only two ways to know the will of God: Through the revelation of the Word and through direct revelation by the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 16:16 - Now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia, **they were forbidden** by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia.
- Don't take for granted the blessing of the ability to hear God's voice

- Can you imagine asking a stranger to ask your spouse what their will is about something? Yet so many Christians try to have a relationship with the Holy Spirit through a proxy.

He has emotions

- Galatians 5:22 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, **joy**, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control.
 - The extreme opposite of **joy** is **grief**
- Ephesians 4: 30 - And do not **grieve** the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

2. HE HAS A PURPOSE

John 14:16 - **And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper...**

- “another” – Greek = Allos
- “Helper” – Greek = Parakletos

In these passages, Jesus introduces a new word to describe the Holy Spirit -- Paraclete (Greek *paraklētos*; John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; and 16:7).

The word is variously rendered in English as "Paraclete" (New Jerusalem Bible), "Comforter" (KJV), "Counselor" (NIV, RSV), "Advocate" (NRSV, New Living Translation), "Friend" (*The Message*), and "Helper" (ESV, NASB, Today's English Version). Philips translates it as "the one who is coming to stand by you" (14:26, cf. 14:16); "the helper" (15:26), and "the divine helper" (16:7). As you can guess, the reason for the wide variety of translations is that the **Greek adjective *paraklētos* can't be easily translated into English with a single word that adequately covers its breadth of meaning.**

Paraklētos is an adjective formed from the verb *parakaleō*, which has the basic meaning, "call to one's side" for help. But the verb *parakaleō* has a variety of extended meanings that complicate our understanding of the exact force of the noun in our passage. It can mean "to urge strongly, appeal to, urge, exhort, encourage," and "to make a strong request for something, request, implore, entreat," then "comfort, encourage, cheer up," and perhaps "be friendly to, speak to in a friendly manner."

The phrase translated another comforter in the verse above is ***allos parakletos***. ***Allos*** is a Greek word which means "another" and ***parakletos*** means comforter. There is another Greek word

that can also be translated "another." That word is *heteros*. It is telling that Jesus chose *allos* instead of *heteros* in describing the Holy Spirit as a comforter. **Heteros** means "another of a different kind" while *allos* means "another of the same kind" By calling the Holy Spirit *allos* Jesus was saying that the Holy Spirit was exactly like him.

The Amplified Bible translates John 14.16 - And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (**Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby**), that He may remain with you forever...

This seven-fold understanding of *parakletos* is in direct contrast with what the state of *orphanhood*, which the Holy Spirit averts.

- Jesus is referring to himself as a *parakletos*
- Jesus called The Holy Spirit "another" *parakletos*
- Jesus is positioned at the right hand of the Father in the dimension of Heaven as a *parakletos* – advocate
- The Holy Spirit is positioned at our right hand as an advocate in the earth dimension

Something of interest...

- When God created Adam God said it wasn't good for him to be alone, so God created a "help meet". One of the same essence, yet a different person. Eve, his wife was taken out of his side and brought to his side to help him.
- Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.
 - A healthy Husband / wife relationship is the closest thing on earth to illustrate the Holy Spirit's role to the Believer.

3. He is power

Luke 24:49 - ...and, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8 - ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...

- Power to do for you what a phone booth did for Clark Kent
- Power that turns Peter - the coward of the cross into the preacher of Pentecost
- Power that transforms your life
- Power that can restore marriages
- Power that destroys the works of darkness and sets every captive free
- Power that liberates the addict from substances demonic hold

- Power to break generational curses and rework your family tree
- Power that drives demons out
- Power that heals the sick and afflicted
- Power to overcome every attack of the devil

Mark 16:17-20 - And **these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

¹⁸ They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

¹⁹ So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

²⁰ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.