

“A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN” SERIES

#27: “Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit”

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-31

INTRO:

Love is the incentive for obedience, and obedience can be proof of love. John says it this way in his first New Testament letter:

“Whoever says “I know him” but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (1st John 2:4).

“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments” (1st John 5:3).

So, Jesus says,

“IF YOU WILL LOVE ME AND KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, I WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER HELPER.”

Why did the disciples need ***“another Helper”***? Duh! From what we know about the disciples at this time, they needed all the help that they could get!

They needed help in loving Jesus and keeping His commandments. They needed help to carry on the work of the kingdom after Jesus went back to heaven.

This ***“Helper”***, the ***“Spirit of truth,”*** would live in them. The apostle Paul would later say in his first letter to the church at Corinth: ***“...your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God”*** (6:19).

So, this Helper Jesus is talking about is the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Godhead.

He assures the eleven disciples:

“I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU AS ORPHANS.”

Some translations read, *“I will not leave you desolate,”* but the Greek here is ORPHANOUS from which we get the English word “orphan.” Jesus is promising that He will not go away and leave them destitute and alone like orphans.

Then he says, ¹⁹ *“Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me.”* He’s telling them that after His crucifixion, God will raise him to life, and He will show Himself to the disciples. Do you know how many times Jesus showed Himself alive after the resurrection?

Jesus actually appeared to one or more of the disciples seven times, but showed Himself a total of thirteen times after His resurrection:

1. To Mary Magdalene;
2. To Salome and Mary, the mother of James, who were with Mary Magdalene;
3. To Peter;
4. To two men on the road to Emmaus;
5. To the 10 disciples when Thomas was not with them;
6. To the 11 disciples when Thomas was with them;
7. To the 7 disciples on the shore of Lake Galilee;
8. To the disciples on a mountain in Galilee when He gave them what we call The Great Commission;
9. To the 500 mentioned by the apostle Paul;
10. To His brother, James;
11. To the disciples on the day of His ascension;
12. To the disciples at His ascension;
13. To the apostle Paul on the road to Gaza.

But after about forty days, He ascended back to the Father. However, He had promised that the Holy Spirit would come to take his place.

He said,

“THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL TEACH YOU ALL THINGS AND BRING TO YOUR REMEMBRANCE ALL THAT I HAVE SAID TO YOU.”

Jesus refers to the Spirit in the Greek as ***“Helper.”*** Some translations render the Greek as ***“Comforter”*** and some as ***“Counselor.”*** The Greek is PARACLESIS, a combination of PARA (meaning “alongside”) and KALEO (meaning “to call”), which together means “one called alongside to strengthen or help.” Thus, the Holy Spirit would “come alongside them” and give them strength and counsel as they would evangelize and/or go through times of testing. He would remind them of the promises of God to the believer. He would help them avoid the corruption of the world.

Jesus told the eleven disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them all things and help them remember all that Jesus taught them while they were with Him.

When Jesus gave them what we call “The Great Commission” on a mountainside in Galilee, He said, ***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*** They needed the help of the Holy Spirit to carry out this commission.

That’s what the Holy Spirit would do for the apostles. But what will the Spirit do for you and me?

First of all, the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force or influence; He is a personal being, the third person of the Godhead.

He takes up residence in us the moment our sins are ***“washed away”*** in the watery grave of baptism. Before that, He works *on* us through the Word, the sword of the Spirit, but after that, He works *through* us.

One writer has written:

“the Holy Spirit enters today into those who hear and obey the apostles’ written word even as He did into those who heard the oral word. The power of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life today is limited only by the lack of faith in the written word! The power of the Holy Spirit will be manifest as the Christian saturates his very life and

being with the precepts and principles taught in the Bible, which is the living voice of the Holy Spirit, and puts them into practice in his life. As the Christian has the mind to surrender to the Holy Spirit as He speaks through the written word, the Holy Spirit possesses him, leads him, and uses him and to just that extent” (Walter L. Spratt, in “The Holy Spirit in the Christian Life”).

IN CLOSING...

Verses 27 through 31: ***“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, (The disciples should have been happy that He was going, because it would mean that what He came to do had been accomplished, but because of their lack of understanding [The Holy Spirit hadn’t come into the world yet.], they were sad and morbid.) for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does takes place you may believe. (The resurrection would be the key to believing He was the Christ, the Son of God.) I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. (The ruler is Satan, and he’s coming to facilitate the death of Jesus.) He has no claim on me, (What he does will not be lasting; I shall rise from the dead.) but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. (He will obediently go to the cross, suffer, and die.) Rise, let us go from here.”***