

**God Sends the Helper***John 14-16*

11 May 2007

**John 14:1-14; 15-17, 25-26; 15:26-27; 16:7-15**

(14:1-14)

(14:15-17) 15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, 17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

(14:25-26) 25 "These things I have spoken to you while I am still 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 that I have said to you.

(15:26-27) 26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. 27 And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.

(16:1-15) 1 "I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. 2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. 3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. 5 But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; 10 concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; 11 concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. 15 All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

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Jesus is taking off, to die, to resurrect, and then to leave this mission in the hands of His (highly incapable) followers. You're leaving! He has (will soon) fulfilled all God intended.

He gives two promises (rooted deeply in centuries-old prophecies):

1. He will come back again
2. He will send One just like Him to be their Helper

Five keys drawn from our text:

1. HS is God.
2. HS is a Person
3. HS is sent from God to fulfill God's purposes in us (make us more like Jesus).
4. HS represents Jesus -- His message will always be consistent with Jesus'
5. We experience God by the presence of His Spirit

These truths, like all truth received from the Bible, must be experienced in order to be understood. I cannot explain to you completely what it means to live in the Holy Spirit – you must dive down into the deep end yourself.

### 1. Holy Spirit is God **14:16; 16:7, 8-11**

*(and was not created by God; He has always been God. As God, He is to be worshipped.)*

The Holy Spirit actively participated in the work of creation. He worked mightily in giving divine revelation and in guiding the writing of, recognition of, and preservation of, the Holy Scriptures. He still works in illuminating every careful effort to understand and preach the true sense of Scripture. He convicts men of sin, draws them to the Savior and regenerates them in their spiritually dead state. He does this in the same manner as in earlier ages, right down to the present moment. He grants assurance of salvation, empowers believers for service and witness, and gifts and graces Christians of every kind of background.

### 2. Holy Spirit is a Person **14:16-17**

*(He has a personality; communicates, has a will, can be grieved, ...)*

We must note, that the Spirit is a person, not an 'it' or an impersonal force, as some are prone to say. He is revealed to us in the New Testament as a person who can be lied to, grieved and quenched. He intercedes for the redeemed believer night and day, helping him frame his requests before God and pray rightly in accord with the will of God. As the third person in the triune Godhead He is properly called God.

'The New Testament leads us to picture our relation to the Spirit like this. Christ stands before us, addressing us, while the Spirit stands behind us, with access to our innermost being. The Spirit shines light over our shoulder so that we see Christ and know Him to be real, and with that whispers into the ear of our heart the words that Christ speaks to us. Do you hear Him saying, "Come to Me ... learn of Me ... you shall find rest..." Go to Him; He is saying those things to you. This is the formula, not only for conversion, but for our entire Christian life: beholding, approaching, trusting, loving, adoring, and serving the Lord Jesus is the essence of it.'

(Packer, James I. "Shy Sovereign," in *Tabletalk*, Vol. 12, No. 3, June 1988, 4.)

- As a Person, He is not weird.
  - I am ashamed to think of the ways (we as affluent Americans) have portrayed God. Like He is a genie-in-a-bottle, there to grant our every wish. One only needs to watch what is the ridiculous and sad entity we know as religious television. As if all God wants for us is to be happy, healthy and wealthy. As if God is all about *us*, and fulfilling our selfish desires. What a sham.
  - The real truth: we exist for God (and not vice versa). And He has chosen to find value in us. We get our value and place in this world from having a relationship with the eternal, sovereign God who created all things.
  - The fact that God would even want to spend time with me or like me blows my mind. Can't He think of someone else He'd rather be with? Yet, He loves us. And in this mystery we realize that cultivating a relationship with God is both difficult and easy.
    - It is *difficult* because we have been let down by so many people; the hurt, pain, disappointment of unrealized expectations in our most trusted friendships.
    - Yet, it is *easy*, for God designed us to long for Him, to be incomplete without His intimacy, and to relate to Him in the deepest and most personal of all levels. Only God can satisfy all your needs and desires. I hope you will find the culmination of all your hope, joy, passion and personal longings in God Himself, and to dive down deep into His Person. He wants to be that close to you.
- This is one major way we can relate to the Holy Spirit.
  - It takes *Familiarity*
    - Like a marriage
    - As you are sensitive to God and are obedient, His voice becomes stronger and stronger
    - Begin to think God's thoughts after Him
    - B/c the HS is a Person, we can get to know Him.

### 3. Holy Spirit is sent from God to fulfill God's purposes in us

**14:12; 15:4, 7-8, 9-11, 16**

What is the chief end of man? "To glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

- *Be fully satisfied in God*
- *And become like Him in holiness*

Bear fruit: 15:4, 7-8, 9-11

- Glorify God ...
- Do His will ...
- Be like Jesus (inwardly) ...
- (which is not possible in and of ourselves.)

- God gets closer than our skin.

'To be occupied with the effects of the Spirit's work, powerful as they are, but not to recognize His full deity and divine personality, is to miss the very reality to which the signs are pointing. It is the same immature error as a child clamoring for a gift and ignoring the giver. Further, to think of the Spirit as an impersonal influence, even in terms of power, is to miss the force of the word "holy" in His name, the Holy Spirit. When we think of the holiness of God we sense that we are dealing with the very center of God's character. The place that represented God's presence among His people in the Old Testament times was called "the holy of holies." Today God dwells not just among, but actually *in* believers. To be indwelt by the Holy Spirit is not just to be under the influence of God, or to be controlled by some kind of extension of God, but to be the holy temple where God Himself, the Holy One, lives.'

(Liefeld, Walter L., "Do You Know the Holy Spirit?" in *Voices* (1987), a sometime publication of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois.)

- Me must keep in mind ... God's goal in our lives is far greater than for us to simply "get saved."
  - It is easy to have a "train ticket" mentality with the Gospel. Jesus hands out the tickets, and when the horn goes off you have to get on this train to heaven. But, until then, you can go and do whatever you want. As long as you have that ticket, and don't lose it, you get to go to Heaven. But that is not the message of Jesus.
  - His message is one of covenant and abiding. We see this clearly in John 15.
  - God has made a promise to us (coming back, 14:1-6), and until then, our enjoyment comes from participating with God in this process of becoming more and more holy
    - Useful in one another's lives

- Bearing fruit
  - What does that look like?
- From the moment we place our trust in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins, to become right with God and enter His family through regeneration and adoption, we have access to the sovereign God, bringing about the. In fact, God's purpose in choosing you for salvation has the end goal of your ultimate glorification, which is to say, that He would change you and mold you into the image of His Son Jesus.
  - *Sanctification* = the process of becoming more and more holy, more and more like Jesus
  - This goal God has for you is so certain it is spoken of in the past tense (Romans 8:28-30)
  - Imitating our Father
    - *Dutch touching the keys b/c he saw his Daddy doing it.* He watches me and wants to be like me. I want to be a good example and to love Him in such a way that if he followed in my steps, well, he would succeed in living in the way of Jesus

#### 4. Holy Spirit represents Jesus **14:26; 15:26; 16:13**

What is perhaps hidden behind all of this is the fact that the HS is a promoter, but not of Himself. He exalts and points to and speaks of the Object of God's love and of God's redemptive plan for the world: Jesus

- Jesus promised "Another" (of the same kind and quality) to come, the *Paraklete* (Advocate).
  - 1 John 2:1- Jesus is our Advocate, defending us place before God, showing how we have been justified with God, made righteous and able to enter Heaven
  - *He is the Helper meant to make the truth of Jesus a reality in our daily lives*
    - Remember: He is like a flashlight behind us, directing us to toward Jesus
    - And more than that, He is like contact lenses, for without His aid we cannot understand Jesus' message nor see Him at work
      - His message will always be consistent with Jesus'
      - And He stays hidden, invisible, not directing the attention to Himself
    - The "Shy Sovereign"
      - As the Creator and Sustainer of all the world, as the Sovereign Ruler of all things, He is worthy to be worshipped

and made known (and we should do both!). Yet He remains behind the scenes, rather talking about Jesus. He teaches us about humility in this way.

- This worked itself in fulfilling the promises of 14:26; 15:26; and 16:13 for the Apostles, as they were led by God (inspired) to write down the very message of God for all humanity.

## 5. We experience God by the Presence of His Spirit 14:15-18; 15:11, 16

Romans 14:17: "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Therefore ... we are invited to *Cultivate a relationship*

- Again, being a Person, this relationship must be cultivated (like a marriage)
  - Time
  - Reciprocal communication
  - Openness
  - Confession
  - Creativity
- We can say we want all of God and just want to live for Him, but easily set our schedules so packed tight with stuff that we miss out on just Being, loving God, and receiving from Him. This dynamic reality crosses over into every square inch of our lives, for God is not just at Church, He doesn't just meet us when we read our Bibles (He does for sure, and we must get alone with Him and feed on His truth!), yet He is always accessible
- We experience Him in this reciprocal relationship
- ASK is a key theme: 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:24, 26
  - God was us to participate with Him
  - He desires to participate with us
  - This opportunity is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, bringing about a reconciliation with God
  - It is made a present reality (to be daily enjoyed and utilized) by the Spirit, who is inside, everywhere, and able to communicate to us and for us with God.

Again, I cannot explain to you the depth of the Holy Spirit. He must be invited into your life; He must be spoken to, worshipped (He is God!).

Just as I cannot adequately explain what Lake Shasta is with more words or a sketch, even more so, one cannot fully grasp who the Spirit is unless one experiences Him. You must dive down deep into the love of God and seek and yearn for and experience God by His Spirit.

### **It is Finished – the Finished Work of Christ on the Cross**

*John 18:28—19:30*

12 May 2007

#### **Read 18:28-32**

(Notice v. 28 – they were so concerned with religious rituals, but not concerned that they had rejected God Himself.)

Here we see one of the trials Jesus went through. Notice the torment Pilate went through emotionally, mentally, in finally realizing He could not punish this Man Jesus anymore, but could not release Him (out of fear).

#### **Read 18:33-40**

#### **Read 19:1-16**

Then we read of the gruesome scene, and the painful agony Jesus endured.

#### **Read 19:17-27**

Notice the presence of the two thieves, crucified next to Him.

Think back to what Peter promised his Master the night before: "*I will lay down my life for you!*" (13:37)

Where was Peter? In 18:15-18 and 18:25-27 Peter publicly denies Jesus (right in front of Jesus nonetheless).

If we think we would have stood by Jesus and defended Him, pleading His case to the death, then we perhaps don't really know ourselves. Even though God loves us, and we are chosen and valuable to Him, a true assessment reveals we are just like the **apostles and disciples who abandoned Christ** (as Peter did, despite his bold statements) at Christ's crucifixion, just like the **religious leaders** who condemned Him (to their own shame), and perhaps most like the **thieves** crucified on either side, guilty of all that Jesus Himself never was, and rightly deserving death. He died in the same manner as they did, publicly mocked, naked, spit on, reviled, and even shouted obscenities and taunts his direction themselves.

Three of the Gospels record only a mention of these two criminals (Matt. 27:44; Mark 15:32; John 19:18), but Luke records the specifics of the scene in **23:32-43**.

In fulfillment of Isaiah 53:12, Jesus was crucified between two evildoers.

Both thieves were mocking Jesus. Yet we see a turning, an illumination in the mind, of one of the thieves, who came to realize Jesus was not only what He said He was (God in the flesh), but also the fulfillment of centuries of specific prophecies about the Savior of the world.

Finally, in a honest act of affection and trust, he turns to Christ and says: Remember me when you come into your kingdom. Jesus, in turn, remarks that this criminal will indeed meet with Him in paradise. Look at our God: loving and gracious to the very end, even to those who had mocked Him, turned from Him, and wasted away their God-given lives. ("Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!")

A couple of final observations:

1. God can (and will) save anyone at any time. No one is beyond His saving grace (!).
2. The criminals here represent the human condition. They represent us.
3. Good people don't go to Heaven. *No one is good enough*. We are each sinners, to the core, selfish and depraved and deserving nothing but God's wrath -- He is Just! Yet, He is able to forgive us, freely, drawing us to Himself and looking past our sin because that sin has been paid in full, having vented the fullness of His wrath on His Son.
  - That is why it can be written, "*For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God*" (2 Cor. 5:21)
  - God treated Jesus like He was us, so He could treat us, like we are Jesus (perfect, righteous, humble, loving)

That leads us to Jesus' final words before death.

And then (back in John 19:28-30), we see the final words of Jesus before death: "It is finished!"

*tetelestai*  
**Paid in full!**

**He Hung**

I raise my head the sky to see  
Cloaked dark, the clouds, they beckon me  
My thrashing heart beats deafeningly

Sharp iron holds these aching limbs  
The mocking crowd keeps tight the dim  
Curses wrought, hate bought by whim

Here is Christ, the Chosen One!  
Hanging there, dies God's own Son!  
Harshly forgot I too am undone

Racked with pain, I do not deny  
This hellbent urge to turn and cry  
At furrowed brow, yet unwavering eye

Screaming at his lowered head  
I demand that he displace my stead  
Without a word life crushes instead

'cross curs-ed ground another wails  
Why do you tarry, he now assails  
It seems we are both of no avail

Glancing up, he knows my all, 'neath heavy eyes  
No condemnation toward me flies  
Sins once done become blood-bought lies

Rolling now, the black horizon nears  
I am at the end, here die my fears  
A sudden flush and this slow mind clears

Do you not fear God, I defend  
What has he done to come to this end?  
Was it not our guilt that killed us friend?

Straining now with rushed immediacy  
My king, please now remember me  
I always have, this mercy's free

This hilltop's grasp is no longer glared  
Now all at once my life was spared  
Glory be, this is how a sinner fared

When the darkness came and danced with glee  
It wasted quick, then death did flee  
For he, my King, he hung for me