

Life With the Spirit Part 2

Jesus Teaches on the Holy Spirit

Last Sunday we looked at what the bible has to say about the person of the Holy Spirit. This morning I want to focus specifically upon the teaching of Jesus concerning the Holy Spirit. To understand just how important Jesus thought the Holy Spirit is, consider what Jesus said to his disciples, **“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.” John 16:7** Imagine that! Jesus said it was better for the disciples, and for us, that he go away in order that the Holy Spirit whom he referred to as the Counselor would come and be with us. Let’s look quickly at what Jesus said in John’s gospel about the Holy Spirit. **John 14:16-17; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7-11; John 16:13-15.**

From these passages we can summarize Jesus’ teaching concerning the Holy Spirit.

1. **Counselor/Comforter**
2. **Abide and live with us forever**
3. **Spirit of truth/guide us into all truth**
4. **Dwell in us**
5. **Teacher**
6. **Testify of Jesus/glorify Jesus**
7. **Convict the world of sin**
8. **Convict the world of righteousness**
9. **Convict the world of judgement**
10. **Show us things to come**

Let’s look at this list for a few moments this morning.

1. Counselor/Comforter. The word we read in NIV says “Counselor” while other translations read Comforter. It is the translation of the Greek word *parakletos*. The literal translation means to call beside. It came to refer to one who would come along side another, to come to the aid of another. Sometimes written as Paraclete, the word then came to mean **Paraclete = Intercessor, Counselor, Advocate, Comforter.**

Jesus told his disciples in John 14, “I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of Truth....I will not leave you as orphans; I will

come to you.” John 14:16-18. He said he would not leave us alone but he would come to us. He would come to us by sending the Holy Spirit - notice he said “another” Comforter or Counselor - to be with us.

The Greek language had two different words we translate as “another”. One means “another but different”; the second means “another just like the first”. Jesus said the Father would send another just like the first. Jesus was the first and the Holy Spirit would be just like him. He would be the presence of God dwelling not just with us but now spiritually dwelling within us.

How is the Holy Spirit our Comforter? Comfort comes with the knowledge that He is with us. Always. What a difference the presence of God makes in our life. We aren’t alone!

We all know the power of another’s presence when we feel alone. I can’t tell you the number of times I’ve walked into a hospital waiting room and sat with someone who was alone while their family member was in surgery, to have them say, “I’m so glad you came.” There was nothing special about my presence, it wasn’t anything I said necessarily, but I came along side them and somehow, the presence of another person brings comfort. That’s what happens when we are in a mess and we know the Holy Spirit is along side us.

The role of the Holy Spirit as Comforter is more than just his presence with us. He isn’t just there to hold our hand. The origin of the word comfort referred to someone who came alongside you to strengthen you, to fortify you and your resolve. Jesus tells us he is not going to leave us alone, as orphans, but he is going to send the Holy Spirit and he will be with us to strengthen us and our resolve. We aren’t orphaned, alone and on our own, we have his strengthening presence. We won’t quit or give up, regardless, for the Holy Spirit is with us.

Consider as well that as he is bringing comfort to you, he is empowering and equipping you to come alongside someone else and bring them comfort by your presence as well.

2. Abide and live with us forever. Jesus said in that passage that the Holy Spirit would be with us forever. The Holy Spirit is not wishy-washy. He is not coming and going in and out of your life. He has come to abide in the life of every follower of Christ. He is committed to you. You can rely upon him because he is with you and will be with you from now on.

A lot of us grew up with this feeling that if we made the least little mistake, the presence of God was flying away from us as fast as he could. I felt like my heart must have swinging

doors on it, like the doors on the Longbranch in Dodge City. The Holy Spirit was just coming and going so much – in and out of my life – that those doors never stopped swinging. Jesus said the Holy Spirit has come to abide with us forever. He is there to mature us and teach us, to intercede for us and through us when we make mistakes. He isn't running away from a challenge. He is there to work in your life to make you conformable to the image of Jesus Christ. I'm not saying you can't willfully choose to reject God but he is not looking to reject you. He has come to abide with you and to teach and mature you. Which brings us to the next point.

3. Spirit of truth/guide us into truth. Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth. The context of John 14:16-17 ties the role of the Comforter to his role as the Spirit of truth. You see, part of the comfort, part of that strength that comes from the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit comes in knowing the truth! Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach us and remind us of everything he said. The Holy Spirit then makes the words of Jesus come alive in us as the Holy Spirit guides us into His truth. We are comforted and strengthened as the word of truth illuminates our life.

4. Dwell in us. John 14:17 tells us the Holy Spirit lives with us and will be in us. People today are eager to make contact with some transcendent power, something bigger than they are, hoping for some experience. I see people on television trying to make contact with dead people, trying to touch something or someone beyond them, hoping there is something more, something beyond.

Friends, we know there is something more, something beyond, because we have the presence of the Holy Spirit living within us through the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we sense his presence, so real at work in us but even if we don't feel something all of the time, we can see the results of his having moved into our heart and life. Because he is living in us, he is producing fruit. Jesus said, **“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit...” John 15:5.** Jesus remains with us, dwelling within us by His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit takes up residence in us and begins to transform us, to clean us up, to produce fruit in us that is consistent with the nature and character of Jesus. The Bible tells us the kind of fruit the Holy Spirit will produce in the life of a follower of Christ. **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.” Galatians 5:22**

The Holy Spirit is living inside of you, if you have made Christ your Savior and Lord, and because he dwells in you, he is at work in you. **“You however are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you.” Romans 8:9.**

It’s amazing what happens when the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our life. I remember a woman who had just received Christ as her Savior and Lord. She came to talk to me about some things that were happening in her life. She mentioned a certain type of music that she had always listened to and that since she had become a Christian she felt strange inside when she listened to that music. She had only been a believer for a few days, but she wondered why she felt bad listening to that music. She didn’t want to listen to it anymore. I explained to her that the Holy Spirit was at work in her life now and that he was cutting out some things that would be harmful to her spiritual health.

Without going to church, without listening to a preacher, it was the Holy Spirit at work in the life of the believer. The Holy Spirit dwells with us and within us. Sometimes the growth that takes place in us is explosive and at other times it may seem slow, but if you are willing to cooperate, there can be a consistent, ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in your life because he dwells in you, producing the fruit and evidence of a Christ filled life.

5. Teacher. (“will teach you all things” John 14:26) We’ve already talked about the Holy Spirit guiding us into all truth. It’s part of what a teacher does. The Holy Spirit is the expert in making application of God’s word to our lives. Think of how the culture has changed over the centuries and yet the Holy Spirit continues to teach us how to live a godly life, applying the word of God, in every situation, in every culture, in every generation. He is a faithful teacher. The question is, are we attentive students? Are we listening to his instruction and taking to heart the application of his truth? He is the teacher. Let’s be eager students of the Holy Spirit’s teaching.

6. Testify of Jesus/glorify Jesus. (John 15:26) We made reference to this last week when we talked about the fact that we may not know a lot about the Holy Spirit because he always points attention away from himself and towards Jesus. The Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus and gives the glory to Jesus.

There are all kinds of people claiming to have Holy Spirit anointed ministries. One of the ways you can tell, is to see if they lift up Jesus or do they lift up themselves? After you’ve been in the service, do you know more about Jesus or more about the preacher? The Holy Spirit will

testify of Jesus. The Holy Spirit will glorify Jesus and lift up the name of Jesus. If the ministry is pointing to something or someone else, be careful.

7. Convict the world of sin. (John 16:8-9) Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes he would convict the world of sin. By the world, Jesus is referring to those who have not believed upon him and have not accepted God's salvation. The word convict means to expose, to bring to light, to convince. The Holy Spirit brings to light and convinces the world, those without Christ, of what they already know deep down in their heart. Everyone knows deep down inside they have messed up, they have fallen short. The bible says we are all sinners in need of a Savior and at some level, we all know it. Everyone on this planet carries around a certain amount of guilt. The people that have no sense of guilt, no conscience, we call them sociopaths and the only thing we can do is incarcerate them. But the Holy Spirit reveals to us our true status and condition in order to bring us to that place where we will repent and turn to God and experience the forgiveness of our sins and the cleansing power of his grace. By showing us Jesus and pointing to his sinless example, the Holy Spirit brings to light our sin and that brings us to a place of confession and repentance where we can be made whole. A primary example of this is found in Acts 2 at the end of Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. The bible says the people listening were "cut to the heart" and said to Peter and the apostles, "What shall we do?" The Holy Spirit convinces the world of sin and the need for a Savior. Perhaps he is speaking to you today.

8. Convict the world of righteousness. (John 16:10) A new standard of righteousness came to light with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Now the Holy Spirit convinces people of the righteousness - the holy rightness - of Christ. Notice it doesn't say the Holy Spirit convicts people of their unrighteousness but convinces them of His righteousness. We see Jesus and realize how far we are from his righteousness and how desperately we need his cleansing and his salvation.

Nor is the Holy Spirit pointing to Jesus as more righteous than us in order to make us work harder to be more like him. Instead the Holy Spirit shows us that his righteousness is something totally different than what we can achieve by our best effort. The Holy Spirit convinces us of Jesus' righteousness and that apart from him, we can never be righteous. The Spirit convicts us and convinces us the only way we can be made righteous is to come to Christ in repentance and faith, to be forgiven and cleansed by him and then we receive his righteousness

by faith in him.

9. Convict the world of judgment. (John 16:11) Jesus said the Holy Spirit would convict or convince the world of judgement and the reason is because the prince of this world now stands condemned. As a result of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the devil has been defeated and God's authority has ultimately been established. Upon the basis of his established authority, at a time and date unknown to us and known only to God, justice will be served. In other words, the Holy Spirit convinces the world that there is such a thing as judgment and apart from Christ, we all stand condemned. One day all will stand before God's judgement seat. Evil will be condemned, Divine justice will make everything right and all those who have availed themselves of God's amazing grace will receive their eternal reward and enter into his presence forever. Those who have rejected Christ and his offer of salvation will be cast out from the presence of God forever. There is a judgment to come and the Holy Spirit convinces us of our need of Christ to save us from that final judgment.

10. Show us things to come. (John 16:13-14) Finally, Jesus said concerning the Holy Spirit, "He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." John 16:13-14. Much is made of the Holy Spirit's role in giving us knowledge about future events. He certainly can tell us what is coming. But I believe part of the Holy Spirit's role is to give us understanding concerning the events that are taking place right now. The Holy Spirit shows us where we are in the light of God's purposes and plans for this earth.

I love that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would speak what he hears. It shows us the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all working together to make known the plan and purpose of God for us. And the Spirit will speak what he hears and make known what is happening so we know what to do, how to be effective for the kingdom of God in the midst of changing times.

"He will make known to us what is yet to come." Jesus' followers have always been asking what is to come. We are still wondering, aren't we? It is interesting to me Jesus' response to his disciples's question in Acts 1. They asked Jesus, "**Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?**" He said to them: '**It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea**

and Samaria and to the ends of the earth. After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.” Acts 1:6-8

Jesus’ disciples were trying to find out the dates. When will you restore the kingdom? Jesus told them to focus on the mission as shown to them by the Holy Spirit. Focus on cooperating with what the Holy Spirit is doing in your life and in the earth.

The Holy Spirit grants to us understanding regarding the events of this world. We are able to see with the Holy Spirit’s help how everything going on in the world today fits into God’s timetable and plan and purpose as revealed in the bible. And when we see how the events of today line up with what the word of God says, when we see that the words of this book are being fulfilled, words written centuries ago by men led by the Holy Spirit, we can give thanks to God who continues to lead us into his truth by the Holy Spirit.

He will show us what is yet to come Jesus said. I look at the future of this church and wonder what will be? What are we to do? How do we reach our culture? How do we affect change and transformation in this community? In our city? How do we reach the campuses around us? How do we reach the middle schools and high schools and the college campuses? How do we get people who do not know Christ to listen to the good news? How do we get people to trust us long enough to listen? I don’t have many answers, but thank God, the Holy Spirit will tell us what is yet to come. He will make known to us what we need to know, he will reveal what we need to hear. As long as we focus upon Jesus and upon the mission he has for us, as long as we are obedient, the Holy Spirit will work within us to see that the work is done.

Jesus said it was important that he go away so the Holy Spirit would come and be with us and dwell within us. Let’s allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. Let’s take time to listen and to obey. Let’s stay true to the mission. Let’s trust the Holy Spirit’s work in our church, in our family, in our personal life. Let’s open ourselves to the Spirit’s work in us, just as Jesus taught.

Perhaps you sense the Holy Spirit pointing out some things in your life that need to change. Perhaps he is convincing you of your need to repent of your sins and come to Christ. Perhaps he is pointing out to you the righteousness of Jesus and you realize your life is so far from that and you need his help to live the life you want to live. This is the very reason Jesus said it was better for us that he return to the father and send the Holy Spirit. Open your heart to

Jesus and to the Holy Spirit today. Take a moment to listen and respond to what the Spirit of the Lord is saying and doing.