

"Inheriting the Promises!" 2021 Summer Series at the Village Church

#14- "I Need HELP!" **John 14: 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!"

Introduction: IL- This past week a new Chief of Chaplains was installed at Harvard University. His name is Greg Epstein and he is an avowed atheist! One quote from his acceptance speech says it all- "We do not look to god for answers, we are each other's answers!" Harvard is the oldest university in the U.S. and began in 1636 with a purpose to train ministers who would pastor new church plants in the American colonies. The school was named for John Harvard, a pastor in New England! America needs help- not so much politically or economically but spiritually!! We need help, I need help!

**Every one of us needs the help of the Holy Spirit of God! The answers to three questions will enable us to understand our need and God's provision:*

Who is this Helper? In our one-verse text we see the very first word is a contrast- "But" turns our eyes to Jesus' words in verse 25- "These things have I spoken to you while I am still with you." So, this Helper is going to pick up where Jesus left off and, according to verse 26, the Helper is going to "teach (us) all things and bring to (our) remembrance all that (Jesus) has said to (us)." As to the Helper's identity we really only need three words- Helper, Holy Spirit. The word "Helper" is the translation of the Greek word "parakletos" which literally means, "one called alongside to help." It is often translated as one who strengthens, consoles, refreshes. The KJV regularly translates it as "Comforter". In our text He is, according to Jesus, the Holy Spirit. With countless references in our Bibles to this unique Person, we learn so much about Him as Deity, as the third Person of the Trinity. He is GOD, first and foremost! In chapter 14 and verse 16 Jesus said that He would, "ask the Father and He will give you ANOTHER Helper to be with you forever." That word, 'another' is crucial to understanding that the Holy Spirit is God, part of the Trinity, because the word means, "another of the same kind." The title, "Helper" is mentioned four times in this last gathering of Jesus and His disciples. It is an important word to be sure. But there are many other titles and descriptions for the Spirit that teach us much about who He is and what He does in our world and in us. He is everywhere, all-powerful all-knowing, eternal, a Person with intelligence, emotions and a will, the Spirit of glory, holiness, life and truth, much more than a mere 'influence' and certainly not a "ghost" in the sense that we use that word. The KJV refers to Him several times as the "Holy Ghost" but we need to know that, above all, as God, He is not only WITH us but IN us who have come to know Jesus as Savior. He is, for us today, a permanent, uninterrupted presence who has taken up residence in us! Here Jesus taught that the Father would "send" the Spirit in Jesus' name or through Jesus' authority. Again, in verse 16, Jesus teaches the disciples that He personally would ask the Father and that the Father would "give" the Spirit in answer to that request! So, the Holy Spirit was sent on the merits and divine nature of the Son. In our text this morning, as we noted already, He is called the HOLY Spirit- 'holy' meaning set apart, unique, no one like Him! Jesus, God's Son, had a body and this meant a somewhat limited bodily presence in and around Jerusalem. But the Spirit,

given to us today, is an unlimited, universal presence! After we are born again, we do not need to ask for the Holy Spirit to come- He is already dwelling in us and will never leave us!

What does Jesus promise to do for me through the Spirit? We will examine what Jesus promises to do for us through the Holy Spirit who is our Helper. These promises of what the Helper will do are, praise God, promises for us to claim! The Helper, in His ministry of continuation of Jesus' work and words, will honor Jesus above all things. John 16: 14- "He will glorify Me, for He will take what is Mine and declare it to you!" The Spirit has the same authority over us as Jesus has, as God demonstrates. But that authority centers on the teaching Jesus gave while on earth. The Holy Spirit brings things to our minds about what Jesus taught, for example in the four Gospels and the book of Acts. When Jesus promises those disciples that the Spirit would teach them, "all things" I believe He is referring to the Spirit laying on the hearts of New Testament writers Like Peter, James and John, and Paul as "one born out of due time" (1 Corinthians 15: 8) the very words of God and Jesus that God wanted us to know and live by! So, that means that the ministry of the Spirit was directly related to the inspiration of the entire Bible. With that we learn, from God's Word, that the Holy Spirit helps us by illuminating our minds as to the words of Scripture and their meaning and application. To 'illuminate' means simply, "to turn the light on"! Through inspiring the writers of Scripture to properly record all that God wants us to know, we are given an infallible text that we can permanently rely on to help us through each day, moment by moment! To say, "I need help!" is almost an understatement, but the Spirit indwells us and opens our eyes to all that the Godhead has done and will do for you and me! The Spirit gives us power to witness, love for each other and our neighbors and friends and gifts with which we can serve God by serving in the church. He grants us assurance of salvation and the total confidence that we cannot lose our salvation, paid for by the work of Christ at Calvary! You see, for the unbelievers the Spirit convicts or convinces them of their need of forgiveness and, when they put their complete trust in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Spirit "regenerates" them or gives them new life and a living hope about the future! For believers, it is important to know that the Holy Spirit only works within the framework of the written Word of God. Yes, God allows me to hear and respond to the "still, small voice" of the Spirit dwelling in me. But that is not to say that I can hear some audible voice from the heavens. If the Holy Spirit speaks to my heart through the Word of God it will always be in complete agreement with the Word of God, never opposed to its truth! The bottom line here it that Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will teach us what we need to know from Scripture and will help us understand and apply it, and even share it with others accurately! So, every true believer has the privilege of sharing truth from their Bible as God, the Holy Spirit, opens doors of opportunity with others. That is both a wonderful privilege AND a serious responsibility.

What is MY responsibility in regard to the Helper's teaching?

Today's third question is answered by referring to Ephesians 5: 18- "And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be FILLED with the Spirit. Our trusted Friend, the Helper, the Spirit of truth, will tell us the truth if we'll listen. To be "filled" with the Spirit means to be under His control, letting Him lead and guide, and teach us what we need to know and how to live it

through His divine power! No wonder why Jesus said, in John 16: 7- "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." We NEED Him! I NEED Him. My responsibility is to yield to His control and walk in fellowship with Him and confess when I go my own way instead of being right in step with Him! If I am walking under His control and with His power, I will know what to say and what NOT to say. I will know when to speak and when to be quiet. I will know how to witness to those around me and to pray for their proper response to the Gospel! And even when I struggle at times with what to pray and how to pray effectively, when all I can honestly say is, "I NEED help!" I have the assurance that the Spirit is my Helper, specifically an Intercessor to the Father when I lack to words to pray! When life is, at times, more than I can handle and I feel buried under huge responsibilities, that is when being fully yielded to His loving control is more than enough to get me through that tough situation! When I am filled I can be more holy, set apart for God's use. I can be assured of my forever relationship with God. I can experience joy in worship when alone or with God's people. I can learn how to pray and pray with power despite my own weaknesses. Acts 1: 8- "But you will receive **power** after the Holy Spirit comes upon you!" That text always reminds me of something I read years ago in a book on prayer- "Turn on the switch by faith!" My job, MY responsibility, is to 'keep being filled'- meaning now and at all times! To be fully yielded to the Helper, the Holy Spirit requires three things of me: to not "quench the Spirit"- 1 Thessalonians 5: 19. "Quench not the Spirit." To quench Him means to stifle Him, to resist Him, to have Him speak clearly in that still, small voice from the Word of God and to ignore it or refuse to follow His commands! I am not to "grieve" the Spirit. Ephesians 4: 30- "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." He wants me to do nothing contrary to His holy Word, but instead to be determined to do what pleases my Helper- namely to use His freely offered help! And finally, I am to "walk by the Spirit, and not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Galatians 5: 16.) The Holy Spirit wants me to walk closely with Him in sweet fellowship and, through that intimate connection to Him to mature day after day. As a result of that close walk, I will refuse to give in to the lusts of my flesh and displease my Lord!

Conclusion: All of that is possible because of what took place just twelve hours or so following this teaching time in the Upper Room. Jesus went with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and there was betrayed, arrested, questioned, beaten, mocked, a crown of thorns driven on His head, whipped by Roman soldiers, nailed to a wooden cross and there gave His life for all mankind so that those who put their trust in Him as their Savior from sin could know new life in Him, and have the Holy Spirit in us now and forever. That promise of sending the Spirit was fulfilled in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost when all the believers received the Spirit, once for all, into their lives and ministries, as the rest of the Bible demonstrates and teaches. But that indwelling of the Holy Spirit, our Helper, started when Jesus' work on the Cross, including His resurrection and ascension, was finished. **IL-** "Calvary covers it all- my past with its sin and shame! My guilt and despair Jesus took on Him there, and Calvary covers it all!"