

The Promised One

John 14:15-19

I. The series.

A. We all have questions about the Holy Spirit.

1. His power, how do we get it? Why don't I feel like He's empowering me? What does it mean to "be filled" with the Spirit? How do I "quench" or "grieve" the Holy Spirit? Why don't I "feel" any different now that I'm a Christian? Etc.....

B. The Holy Spirit is often referred to as "the Forgotten God".

C. The average Christian falls into one of three camps:

1. The uninformed
2. The misinformed
3. The informed—yet still a lot of questions!
 - a. Cessationist
 - b. Continuationist

D. Our approach—*Here's what the Bible says.*

II. We need help!

A. In our spiritual walk and in our entire life.

B. The Christian life cannot be fully lived without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

III. John 14.

A. The Upper Room Discourse.

1. Jesus comforts His disciples in that within the next hours, He will be going to the cross leaving them.
 - a. The disciples have given their lives to following Jesus for 3 ½ years and now Jesus tells them He is leaving them.
 - b. The disciples feel "help-less", they need help!
2. The discourse is a list of amazing promises Jesus makes to His disciples.

- a. The promises are for true Christians—those who “love Christ and obey Him.” Love is an action word (V.15).

IV. Five-fold function of the Holy Spirit to help the believer.

A. **The Spirit is an “*active helper*” (V. 16)**

1. A “trinitarian” verse—the entire Trinity is involved
2. The Holy Spirit = *parakletos* = para= “alongside”; kletos= “called” = “Called alongside”.

B. **The Helper is of the *highest caliber***

1. “Another” = *Allos* = another of the exact same kind.
2. The Holy Spirit— *One called to stand constantly by us and who is ready to take part in everything in which his help is needed.*
3. The Holy Spirit is the exact same kind of helper as was Jesus Christ.

C. **The Holy Spirit is a *permanent helper* (V.16).**

1. The Holy Spirit...
 - a. Will be with you...to save you
 - b. Will be in you....to transform you into the likeness of Christ (Sanctification).
 - c. Will come upon you...to empower you (1 Corinthians 3:16).

E. **The Holy Spirit is a *reliable helper*.**

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth (14:17; 15:26; 16:12 etc.
2. He will guide you in all the truth that Jesus Christ was guiding.

F. **The Spirit is an *exclusive helper* (V.17)**

1. Only the redeemed in Christ has the Holy Spirit (V.15).
2. The world—the unbeliever—has rejected God because he can not see Him or know Him.

The Promised One

John 14:15-19

If you are totally fulfilled in your Christian life...if you are rarely frustrated and seldom dissatisfied with yourself...if you do not need or long for a more intimate and uninterrupted relationship with God...if you have no or little desire to regularly sense His presence and power...

you can go home... this series is not for you!...for the rest of us... I think this is going to be a very edifying and much needed series.

We will be spending several Sundays on the Holy Spirit...the great gift of God to get us not just through life... but to flourish in our spiritual life... The Holy Spirit... “all you Charismatics are all excited *“it’s about time!”*... you Presbyterians are thinking *“Oh No!”*... and the rest of you Baptists are worried you will have to start raising your hands when we sing!

My intention is to make this series more practical than theoretical...it would be very easy to get tangled up in the theological weeds... not that the theoretical and high theology is not important... but I think what will help us all the most is to look at how we...specifically all Christians ... however, the Holy Spirit plays a major role with the non-Christian as well...

But what will help us all the most is to look at how we can be in close relationship with the Holy Spirit...one of the greatest gifts God has given to each one of us.... how we can live in His power and wisdom and strength in every aspect of our lives...

Let’s all be honest... we all have many questions regarding the Holy Spirit...we hear terms in church all the time regarding the Holy Spirit... we hear claims of great power available through the Holy Spirit... and we wonder.... Here’s a short list I made.

- What does it mean to be “filled” by the Holy Spirit?
- How is that different than “receiving” the Holy Spirit?
- Is there a separate "baptism in the Holy Spirit?
- How do I move from simply believing in the Holy Spirit to experiencing His work more fully in my life?
- How do I know when God is speaking to me or are those just my thoughts?
- How come I don’t feel like the Holy Spirit is in me? Why don’t I feel different?'
- Why do I still struggle with sin if the Holy Spirit is in me?
- What does it mean to “grieve” or “quench” the Holy Spirit?
- Why do I feel so spiritually dry when I have all this power living in me?
- How come I can’t “hear” God more clearly?
- Does God speak to me through dreams, visions and impressions?

And there are so many more questions!...we all have them!...

My first experience with the Holy Spirit was not so wonderful...

So I was maybe 8 years old... my dad's parents lived in down town San Diego... this is back in the early 60's... I never thought of my Dad's parents as churchgoers or very "religious"... but my grandmother attended a church... what a church!... we would go to church with her as a family whenever we were in San Diego on a Sunday... My parents always made me wear a little suit with a clip on tie...

It was called the *Revival Pentecostal Tabernacle*... Reverend David Franklin Grey who wore a black gown... we would sit in the front pew... the pulpit had flames coming out of it... not real ones... painted wood... it was scary... large painted flames on the back wall with a big painted bird heading downward towards the pulpit...

The reverend never talked... he only yelled... screamed... and people all around me were speaking in some foreign language... all raising their hands and some dancing... this was a lot for an 8 year old Baptist Boy...

This Reverend David Franklin Grey looked right at me... and pointed his long finger at me and screamed... YOU NEED THE HOLY GHOST!... I was horrified!

[My sister...]

[The English term "**Holy Ghost**" comes from the Old English word *gāst* or *gast*, which meant "breath," "soul," or "spirit" When the King James Version of the Bible was translated in 1611, translators used "Holy Ghost" because it was the most natural English equivalent for the Greek phrase *πνεῦμα ἅγιον* (**pneuma hagion**), meaning "Holy Spirit". At that time, "ghost" did not carry the modern connotation of a spirit of a dead person; it referred to an immaterial, living essence]

The Holy Spirit... we need to know Him...

A.W. Tozer *The idea of the Holy Spirit to the average church member is so vague as to be nonexistent.*

The Federalist "What Christians believe" article... *Most Evangelical Christians believe that the Holy Spirit is a divine force or a symbol of God's power or presence.*

Not a person... but a "symbol"... symbols don't do anything... they just exist... the fact is, we couldn't and can't do anything in the Christian life without the help of the Holy Spirit...

John Oglevie *Sadly, many Christians settle for 2/3 of God. God the Father is way up there somewhere, aloof and apart from their daily lives, Christ is out there, somewhere between them*

and the Father. The Holy Spirit is some kind of vague force or impersonal power they hear about but do not know intimately.

Churchgoers seem to fall into three categories when considering the Holy Spirit...

1. **The uninformed**—They simply don't know about the Holy Spirit...it surprises me how many people tell me they've been in church most of their lives yet they've never learned anything about the Holy Spirit...

They can tell you who the Father is... who the Son is... they've heard of the Holy Spirit but nobody ever talked about the Holy Spirit...It's no wonder the Holy Spirit is often referred to as "*the Forgotten God*"...

2. **The misinformed**— There seems to be **two extremes** on the spectrum making up the misinformed... 1. ***Those that over-emphasizes the Holy Spirit***...they have an unhealthy preoccupation of the Holy Spirit... places Him higher than God and Jesus... the Holy Spirit is the most emphasized of the Trinity... there's seems to be an obsession with the manifestation of the Spirit... an obsession with the supernatural... Their obsession is so strong they go past what the Bible teaches and rely on experiences...

2. Those who **drastically under-emphasize the Holy Spirit**...with a view that says the Holy Spirit and His work was basically limited to Bible times... everything that the Holy Spirit did 2000 years ago doesn't apply to us today.... The supernatural was for then not now.

3. **The informed**

Don't think being the informed means you've got it all figured out!... basically the "informed" are those who got out their Bibles and learned who the Holy Spirit is, what He has done and what He is doing, so forth....and then made some conclusions... often ending up in two contrasting camps"...Cessationism and Continuationism... [so much for not getting into the theological!]... similar but not as drastic as the uninformed.

Cessationism is the view that the "miracle gifts" of tongues and healing have ceased—that the end of the apostolic age brought about a cessation of the miracles associated with that age. Most cessationists believe that, while God can and still does perform miracles today, the Holy Spirit no longer uses individuals to perform miraculous signs.

Continuationism is the belief that all the spiritual gifts, including healings, tongues, and miracles, are still in operation today, just as they were in the days of the early church. A continuationist believes that the spiritual gifts have "continued" unabated since the Day of Pentecost and that today's church has access to all the spiritual gifts mentioned in the Bible.

[Both camps eventually make claims based on each one's presuppositions, reason and logic... both in their absolute form makes leaps and conclusions that the Bible doesn't make...]

The approach I'm taking through this series is simply open the Bible and see what it says regarding the Holy Spirit...

When I finished Revelation I wanted to go through something not quite as controversial to get a breather... I settled on the "Holy Spirit"... no controversy?... I am sure I'm going to make everyone mad...for some I haven't taken it far enough... others I've taken it too far...I'm sticking to my default mode... **here's what I believe the Bible says.**

Here's the bottom line...***We need help!... we need help !***...an old quote... *the Christian life is not difficult, it is impossible!*...

The truth is... **we need help**...in our spiritual life and in all of life....the good news is, help is here and it is available... NOW!...

We are told that the Christian life cannot be lived without the help of the Holy Spirit... How?

Our approach is going to be looking at sections of Scripture and gleaning from them the truth about the Holy Spirit... this will build every week.

I want to begin with that classic passage in Scripture, John 14... we call "the Upper Room Discourse"... where Jesus promises the greatest help to His disciples... It is the night before Jesus goes to the cross... He's at the end of His short three + years of ministry with His 12 disciples... now it's eleven... Judas has left the room to betray Jesus.

Jesus has assembled His disciples in the upper room to share His final Passover meal and give final instructions for after He is gone... Jesus tells the disciples He is leaving them...In less than 24 hrs! they are not excited about that.

They are emotionally unraveling... this is not the news they wanted to hear... Jesus has been their rock, their stability for the last 3 1/2 years...

"When the foundation of your sense of security is taken away, it can trigger a powerful emotional and psychological response because safety is a basic human need that underpins all other aspects of well-being

*Many people feel shock, numbness, or disbelief when something they relied on is removed, especially if it was a source of comfort or protection... This can be followed by anxiety, fear, or **helplessness**",*

The disciples are starting to feel HELP-LESS...they needed help... Jesus knows this and wants to comfort them...Chapter 14 of John begins a series of amazing promises Jesus is making to His disciples.... He is making them these promises to comfort them.... One of the greatest promises ever is found in verse 16.

Read John 14:15-19

I started with verse 15 because it is a key to all this... **If you love Me, you will keep My commandments...** Sounds a bit legalistic doesn't it?...Don't we just have to love Jesus?... I thought we are under grace not the Law?...

Jesus is defining what a Christian is... it is the true Christian that will receive all the promises He is making...*I'm going to leave you, but I'm going to go and prepare a place for you...whatever you ask in My name I will do... ask Me anything in My name and I WILL DO IT...* amazing promises!... who will receive them?... **those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

Love is an action word... John records Jesus saying this in all his writings...

Verse 21 **He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me.**

Verse 23 **If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word.**

Verse 24 **He who does not love Me does not keep My word**

John 15:10 **If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love JUST AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHER'S COMMANDMENTS AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE.**

What we are getting is proof of one's salvation... Proof of one's salvation... evidence of one's salvation is not just a profession of faith to Jesus...but obedience to Jesus... Jesus says He was obedient to His Father...

people can say anything... remember those horrifying words Jesus said recorded by Matthew in Mathew 7:22 **Many will say to Me, Lord, Lord, I did this and I did that; I will say to them 'Depart from Me, I never knew you...**

1 John 2:3 **And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments.**

A real relationship with God manifests itself on the basis of love, demonstrated in obedience.

1 John 5:2 **By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and do His commandments.**

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.

Love and obedience are the defining reality of the true believer... that being the case... back to 14:16 that great promise of Jesus...**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, that He may be with you forever;** in only for those who Love Christ evidenced by their obedience to Him...

Five-fold function of the Holy Spirit to help the believer:

1. The Spirit is an active helper

Read verse 16

This is one of those verses the Trinity is all there... **I** is Jesus, **will ask the Father**... God the Father... and **another** helper... which is the Holy Spirit.... look how they work together... Jesus makes a request to His Father... the Father responds by granting the request... He gives the Holy Spirit as a gift to the disciples...

In this entire upper room discourse... four times Jesus uses the term “helper” when referring to the Holy Spirit... Some of your translations say “Advocate”, “Encourager”, “Counselor”... “comforter”...

The Greek word is *Parakletos* Para= Around or with, kaletos = “Called”, put it together it is the Holy Spirit, **One called alongside of us**... when you need help... and someone comes “along side you”... that person is walking *with you*... to help you.

Used only five times in the New Testament, four of those are used here in the Upper Room Discourse... I think that “helper” is the closest to the original meaning... The Holy Spirit does many things, He is all powerful... but Jesus refers to Him as the “**helper**”.

The Amplified Bible—*One called to stand constantly by us and who is ready to take part in everything in which his help is needed.*

Who does He help?

2. The Helper is of the highest caliber

This is important... **(16) and He will give you another Helper**... The promise from Jesus is not just that God will give you a helper... but He will give you **ANOTHER** Helper... we came across this same Greek word 18 times when we were going through Revelation...

And another angel came out of the temple... remember?... probably not!... in the Greek language there are two different words we translate as *another*... we only have *another* in English... so we don't get the impact.

The Greek *Heteros* means another of a “different kind”... I have a bowl of fruit, apples, oranges, pears... I eat an apple then I say I want another fruit... I pick the orange.... Another of a different kind.

Allos means another from the exact same kind... I eat an apple then I pick out another... *Allos*... I pick another apple... why is this important... because Jesus is telling His disciples *I'm leaving you... but I'm going to ask God My Father to give you another EXACTLY like Me... Jesus to come along side you and help you as I have helped you.*

1. The Holy Spirit is our helper

2. The Holy Spirit is of the exact same kind as Jesus Christ... this is no secondary or inferior

replacement for Jesus Christ... *Everything that I've been to you, now the Holy Spirit will be to you.*

Jesus taught the disciples everything... He taught them to pray... He taught them...instructed them in all things... the Sermon on the Mount...the Olivet Discourse... this Upper Room Discourse...

The hours listening to Him as they traveled through the Holy Lands... all the parables... all the life situations He instructed them in...Jesus educated the disciples... Now He's leaving but He is leaving with an equal to take over His spot...

Read verses 25- 26

I don't know if we realize what this means for us... **the same caliber of teaching and life instruction that the disciples received directly from Jesus Christ**... we can have *another of the same kind* in the Holy Spirit!

Just as the disciples had to rely on Jesus Christ for help...Jesus said **apart from Me you can do nothing!**... you and I need to learn that **apart from the Holy Spirit... we can do nothing!**... I read this week that *We need God the Father for external life...He created the heavens and the earth... external life... we need God the Son for our eternal life... we need the Holy Spirit for our internal life...*

He is the source of our strength... our comfort... the understanding of God's Word... He is our Helper of the exact same kind!

3. The Spirit is a Permanent Helper

The moment you became a Christian you received the Holy Spirit IN YOU... and He's going nowhere!... He is permanent...

16 And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you FOREVER!

This was good news for the disciples but they didn't fully realize it right then... but this coming Helper was going to come to them and stay with them forever... not just three and a half years then leave...

The Holy Spirit is a permanent fixture in the believer... He doesn't pack up and leave when you blow it... when you sin... He doesn't leave because you misbehaved... or He got a better deal somewhere else... *You're on your own now, I'm out a here!*

You're 18 now, get out!

We will eventually look at how you can **grieve** the Holy Spirit... how you can **quench** the Holy Spirit...**resist** the Holy Spirit...but know this today... He doesn't...He never will... leave you!

Read verse 17

Interesting.... Did you catch the two relationships we will have with the Holy Spirit...two prepositions **He will be WITH you** and **He will be IN you**... With and In... later in Acts chapter 1:8 is a 3rd preposition... **He will come UPON you**... think of this three-fold relationship... **With, In, Upon.**

The Holy Spirit was with you before He was in you... before you came to Christ, He was with you... what was He doing there?... convicting you...

John 16:8-10

And He (The H.S.), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me;10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me;

The Holy Spirit was the One drawing you to God... by convicting you of your sin... revealing to you the need for The Savior Jesus Christ... He was WITH you.

You accept Jesus He then moves INSIDE you... 1Corinthians 3:16 **Do you not know that you are a sanctuary of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**... Later He comes “Upon you” to empower you to be His witness to the ends of the world...

He comes *to us (with us)* to save us

He comes *into us* to sanctify us...to change us from our sinful nature into the likeness of Christ.

He comes *upon us* to give us power...to do His work.

4. The Spirit is a reliable helper

17 The Spirit of truth...the Spirit of truth can't lie... can't deceive... can't mislead... the Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth several times... 15:26 **“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,**

In other words... the Holy Spirit will come and tell you the truth about who God is...

16:12... still the Upper Room Discourse... same room, same message, a little later... **“I still have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** Your emotions are riding high... you're worried about the immediate future... you are anxious...I'm leaving you...**13 But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak from Himself, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.**

The Holy Spirit is going to put everything together that I've been teaching you... He will fill in all the blanks... He will tell you where all this is going... Most believe what Jesus is revealing

here is how the Holy Spirit will lead these men into writing what will become the New Testament... the Word of God!

He's not only leading these men in truth... but that little article there "**the**" refers to a specific truth... the truth about Jesus Christ...

[test statements with the truth... the H.S. leads in truth]

5. The Spirit is an exclusive Helper

Not everyone gets the Holy Spirit...only certain ones get His help... why not?...

Read verse 17

The certain ones are all believers of Jesus Christ... those who love Him (where we started!)... those who love Him and keep His commandments (15)... all believers... all the redeemed by the blood of Christ has the Holy Spirit.

All other people... referred to as "**the world**" here in verse 17... do not... Why not?... **they do not "SEE" Him or "KNOW" Him...** what do people say?... *I won't believe it unless I see it...* another way of saying... *show me the science!... I can't believe in a God I cannot verify with my eyes... or proof that I can see for myself.*

If I can't taste it, feel it, see it...I can't believe it... 1 Corinthians 2 (14) **But a natural man does not accept the depths of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually examined.**

It can be very frustrating sharing Jesus Christ to an unbeliever.... It all makes so much sense to you... you try to explain it to them and they look at you like you're from Mars... **they are looking at the spiritual in terms of the material...** the spiritual transcends the limitations of the material... what we can see, smell, touch and hear...

We know this because the Holy Spirit has opened our eyes to see it... **you know this because He abides with you and will be** (we are post Pentecost, the H.S. now resides IN us)...IT IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO OPENS THE EYES TO SEE THE SPIRITUAL TRUTH.... a mystery.

Romans 1 tells us that God has revealed Himself to ALL men...(19) **that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.**

(20) **For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, both His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.** God has been rejected despite the evidence of the contrary

(25) **For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature** see, smell, hear, touch **rather than the Creator** invisible, attributes... , **who is blessed forever.**
Amen

- The Holy Spirit I our helper...we need help
- The Holy Spirit is of the highest caliber of helper...He is God... ever bit God as Jesus and the Father is..
- He is our permanent helper... He is with us FOREVER!
- He is reliable...everything that comes from the Holy Spirit is truth... no deception... no grey areas... no confusion... what He says He'll do He does.
- He's available ONLY to those who love Christ... who have accepted Him as Lord and Savior... washed by the blood of the Lamb!