

SERMON TRANSCRIPT

11.02.2025 | I Believe in The Holy Spirit | John 14:15-26 | Dr. Ben Day, Senior Pastor

Let's go to John 14. As we go to, I was telling the kids earlier, Jesus' words to His disciples on the night when He was betrayed. We're going to do that to consider the Holy Spirit. You know, I've mentioned this before, but you can see within the Apostle's Creed, it is intentionally Trinitarian. Meaning there's three "I believe" statements in the Apostle's Creed, and each one begins with a person of our triune God. I believe in God the Father Almighty, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, and now I believe in the Holy Spirit. The longest section of the Creed is on this belief in Jesus Christ, of who He is and what He's done. We spent six weeks in that section, considering the person and work of Jesus. You know, in that section, it's really easy to see that all of that work is specifically connected to Jesus, because there's so much in that section that speaks about Him and what He has done, what He is doing and what He is going to do.

But you know, we come to this end of the Apostle's Creed, this last section, which begins with "I believe in the Holy Spirit." And you'll notice that this whole last section is one sentence. And I think the whole last section is meant to be a reflection on who the Spirit is, but also the work that He does in the people of God. It's maybe not quite as clear, because it doesn't say "He" doing these things, as it did for Jesus, but I think the connection there is clear, that what we are going to see today, through the next couple of weeks, is that the Holy Spirit is the third person of our triune God, who is at work amongst the people of God, as we both remember and reflect and build our lives upon who Jesus is and what He has done, but also as we continue to live in this faith and in this truth until Jesus returns.

As Pastor Clark even began our service by talking about, "The Spirit is the one who gives us life." We're going to see that both today and in the few weeks to come, in the way that the Spirit is at work amongst the people of God. Today we're really going to try to focus in on who the Spirit is and the roles that He plays in our lives as the people of God. It's a big topic for us to cover, but I think that this passage in John 14 is really helpful. This is the night when Jesus is betrayed as He is taking the Passover meal with His disciples. He spends a good bit of time speaking about the Holy Spirit. Here in John chapter 14 and then again in John chapter 16, Jesus teaches them about the Spirit because Jesus is about to go away. For them to know the Spirit that is going to come to them as followers of His was central to them continuing on in what Jesus had called them to.

And so I think it's very helpful for us to learn about the Spirit and the roles that He plays. Here in John chapter 14, I'm going to read verses 15 through 27 for us. I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you. Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, you in me and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him. Judas, not a scariot, said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us and not to the world?" And Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, my Father will love him. And we will come to him and make our home with him. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine, but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you, but the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things. Bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. 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."

Last Saturday, not yesterday, but the week before, we had our church's fall festival. Part of that was a trunk retreat in which different members of our church decorated and designed their trunks to look in a certain way and have activities for kids to do and earn candy. I also loved all the different trunks that were there. Our church members really were just creative. So many ways of engaging kids and loving all the families of our church. I loved all the volunteers that came. But I just have to point out, Rocky had his trunk designed like a Star Wars theme. If you haven't seen pictures of it, I think we have them somewhere. It's very impressive. He had all sorts of detail that was all related to Star Wars. The activity for the kids to do was to take a Nerf gun and shoot the Death Star, which I think was like a disco ball or something, I don't know, that was hanging in his car. Maybe it was actually the Death Star, I don't know. But as you can tell, I don't know a lot about Star Wars. I've not seen all the movies. I've seen some of the movies. Forget about all the shows that they've now come out with. I've not seen all those. So I don't know a lot of the details, and I might even get some of what I'm about to say wrong. But there's something I know about Star Wars I feel like most people know, and that is the Force.

The Force is something that kind of goes beyond just like if you know a lot about Star Wars. The Force is like this kind of mystical thing, this energy maybe that someone can have. It's strong in some and not in others. It is something that gives you a great power to do things that you would not be able to do on your own. In fact, I do remember the scene where Yoda is teaching Luke about the Force, and he's explaining that though Yoda is small, he can do great things because the Force is his ally. The Force gives you this power to do what would normally be impossible.

When we're talking about the Holy Spirit, I often think of the Force in the Star Wars world because I think that so many people think of the Holy Spirit a lot like the Force in the Star Wars universe. A lot of people will refer to the Holy Spirit as an "it." A lot of people think of the Holy Spirit as really this kind of mystical thing. Maybe like the spiritual energy that God sends. That you've just got to figure out how to like tap into, get harness of, and then you would have this power to do the things that you would not normally be able to do. I find that this thinking, it tends to be kind of pervasive amongst the church, and it leads to a couple of different errors that people often fall into.

There's a certain error that people will sometimes fall into in which they give a lot of attention to the power of the Spirit and the ways that that power can be manifest through different things. So you might refer to these people as hyper-charismatic or people who would give a lot of attention to the work of the Spirit, that supernatural work that they would want to see happen in them and then especially through them. Work of maybe speaking in tongues or performing healings or seeing things that would normally be impossible be done because of the power of the Spirit. Sometimes it seems like they want to really tap into this power in a certain way and be able to see it used in certain ways. Really that error is nothing new. Back in the early church you can read in Acts chapter 8 there's this guy named Simon the Magician who sees the way the Spirit is working through the apostles. And he basically asks, "Can I pay you a certain amount of money so that I too can access this power of the Holy Spirit to be able to do things I wouldn't normally be able to do?" So this idea that the Spirit is something that like a power that we can tap into or a force that can be strong in others and work in us in certain ways is sometimes pervasive.

But then on the other side I think you have people who think of the Spirit as this kind of mystical just thing, maybe this energy and so they kind of neglect the Spirit. Because the Spirit is not thought of maybe as a person but as this thing they focus much more solely on Jesus because worthy of our attention he is. He's our Savior and our Lord but it's a bit easier to grasp Jesus as a person, a man who walked on this earth. We can look to Jesus but the Spirit is this kind of mystical unsure of thing and so they tend to neglect the Spirit and the work that he might want to be doing in their lives. I'll confess as a Baptist church we're probably much more likely to fall into this error than the other one. But I think both come from maybe a similar wrong thinking and that is the Spirit of being a force, an it.

Yes in some ways the Spirit is mysterious but the Spirit is a person. The Spirit is not some type of force that you could just tap into or that might be strong in some and not in others but the Spirit is a person. In fact the main kind of thing I want you to know about the Spirit who he is from today is that the Spirit is a third person of our triune God. If you're taking notes and you want to fill in blanks there's the answer to who is the Spirit. Who the Spirit is is the third person of our triune God. The Spirit is not an it. Bible always refers to the Spirit as a he. Bible says that the Spirit has a will. Bible says that the Spirit can be grieved. You see to try to treat the Spirit as just this kind of thing that you could just like tap into so that the power can flow through you to do things you would not normally be able to do would really be a lot like just trying to use somebody for your own benefit.

Try to take someone who's a person and just getting the benefit of what they can do and allowing it to be in your life. But the other side of it to take a person who is the third person of our triune God and to totally neglect him because he is mystical or hard to understand. It's a neglect a friend. It's a neglect a relationship. It's a neglect God. Jesus speaks here about the Holy Spirit and he helps us to understand that not only is the Holy Spirit not an it but a person but he is the third person of our triune God. Let me just help you see that in the text and in verse 16 Jesus is speaking to the disciples and he says I will ask the father and he will give you another helper to be with you forever. 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. Do you notice the use of that language he threw out verse 17 Jesus is saying the spirit is not an it. It's not a force or some kind of just medium it is a person. The spirit is a person. He is a person. And he says here that the spirit is a another helper says I'll ask the father and he will send another helper to you now in just a little bit we're going to talk about what that title of of helper kind of means. But I want you to notice the word there another. Jesus says the father will send

another helper seems to indicate there was a helper already sent. Who is the first helper. Well the context seems to be that it was Jesus. Jesus is the one sent from the father and he says the father will send to you another helper.

That word another it tends to mean different but of the same kind. Jesus is saying the spirit that God will send he's not an it he's a person and he is different from me. We are different as persons but yet we are of the same kind or we are alike. He is saying that the spirit will come to the disciples and it will almost be as if he and the father are coming to the disciples that when the spirit because he is fully God comes to the disciples. He is another helper he is of the same kind as Jesus although different it is as if Jesus and the father are making their home in the disciples. This is what Jesus goes on to say in verse 23 you go down to that part of the passage and Jesus says if anyone loves me he will keep my word and my father will love him and we will come to him and we will make our home with him.

Jesus here is speaking about both he and the father coming and being with the disciples. Now there's some some parts of this that I think are maybe more than just about the indwelling of the spirit. There's this great reality that Jesus is speaking of throughout this passage about us being in union with Jesus even says you will be in me and I will be in you. One of the great realities of the Christian faith is that when we trust in Jesus we are brought into a union with Jesus Christ in such a way that we are found in him and also he is in us.

The Bible teaches that one of the central ways that he is in us is through the Holy Spirit that is sent. Jesus says it will be as if I and the father have come to make our home in your life because you will have the Holy Spirit in your life. We talked about the Trinity a couple weeks back about six weeks back now when we were talking about the person of Jesus. There are some aspects to our triune God that are certainly very difficult for us to understand because he is above us. He is infinite and we are finite. But there are also some things that are made very clear in Scripture. One is that there is only one God. We speak of father and son and spirit. But it's not to be confused as if we worship three different gods. The Bible is very clear that there is one God. One being or one essence theologians will often say. But yet that one God has always existed in three persons. It's not that this one God is sometimes the father and sometimes the son and sometimes the spirit. But that always for all eternity this one God has always existed as father and son and spirit. Neither one of the three are just part of God, a portion of God, a third of God. The Bible says that each one of them are fully and truly God.

What that means is that the Holy Spirit, when he comes to indwell your life, is God coming to dwell in your life. There is one God and he indwells his people. There is one God and in the presence of the Holy Spirit he is coming to be a part of your life, to work in your life, to have a relationship with you. When you think about how different we might relate to the spirit if we thought of him more in this way. The spirit is not just some kind of force that we can tap into. It's not just some kind of mysterious, mystical thing. But he is the third person of our triune God, fully God himself. Not to be used for his power, not to be neglected, but to be worshipped, to be revered. To have a relationship with.

I think this is the point that I would like to drive home this morning. That is, if we really believe that the Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of our triune God, then what we should seek to do is cultivate a relationship with the spirit. And we talk in the Bible about being filled with the Holy Spirit. If you were to think of the spirit as just some force or some kind of energy, then to be filled with the spirit would mean certain things. Maybe you'd have to do certain things or tap in in certain ways. But if the spirit is a person, then to be filled with the spirit, I think really means to be so in this relationship with this person, that they influence you, that they guide you, that this person has control over your life. To be filled with the spirit is the same way that you would really be filled in any relationship with any person and in a unique way because this person dwells within you. So one of the things I want us to consider this morning is how do we cultivate a relationship with this person who is fully God, who's been given to us by the Father. The way that I want us to think about this morning is the roles that the spirit plays in our lives.

There's so much that we could try to cover in one sermon to talk about the Holy Spirit and who he is and what he does. We could spend a whole series on the spirit, but I think in this passage, Jesus lays out for us some of the important roles that the spirit plays that I just want to lay before you this morning that would help us to think about what does it look like to cultivate a relationship with the Holy Spirit. So five roles of the spirit that we see from Jesus in John chapter 14. First, he is the presence of God. One of the main roles that the spirit plays is the presence of God in our lives. We just talked about how Jesus was saying he and the Father will make his home in the disciples, and he's talking about the way

that the spirit makes his home in the life of the believer. The spirit is meant to be, is God's presence in our lives. Jesus speaks about this really clearly at the beginning of the passage. It's a verse we just read, but I just want to read it again.

In verse 17, he says, "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." This is important when you think about the presence of the Holy Spirit, the presence of God, is that he is promising that the Holy Spirit will be in the disciples. Notice the contrast here, that he says the Holy Spirit has already been at work amongst you, but soon he will be in you. The Holy Spirit did not show up at Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has always existed as a third person of our triune God. The Holy Spirit has always been at work in the world. You read in Genesis chapter 1, the spirit was at work in creation. The Spirit has always been working, and one of the ways the Spirit has always been at work is to dwell amongst the people of God. So God created us to be in a relationship with him. Genesis 1 and 2, God creates male and female to walk with him and commune with him. But then in Genesis 3, as sin enters the world, that communion is broken.

One of the things that God does throughout the Bible, throughout redemptive history, is to dwell with his people. That communion has been broken, but God has not left us without his presence. So in the Old Testament, people of Israel would walk around with a tabernacle. God's presence was there. His Spirit was there to be with his people. Then whenever they found themselves in the Promised Land to put down roots, they built a temple. In God's presence, his Spirit was there in the temple. And then as Jesus walks on the earth, it says that the Spirit comes down upon him in his baptism. Jesus says things like, "My body is the temple," showing that he is the presence of God amongst his people.

But now the Bible says that the Holy Spirit doesn't dwell in a tabernacle or a temple, or even in just the person of Jesus, but he dwells in the people of God. God's presence is not just near us, but actually within us. God's presence in your life should bring a level of conviction, and it should bring a level of comfort. God's presence in your life, the Holy Spirit's presence in your life, should bring a level of conviction. Listen to the way Paul speaks about it in 1 Corinthians 6, when he explains that we are now the temple, because we have God's presence in us. It says, "Do you not know," verse 19 of 1 Corinthians 6, "that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you are bought with a price, so glorify God in your body." God's presence is with you. Paul says you should then act as if your body is a temple, because it is. That should bring a level of conviction to us.

I mean, if we're all of us in some way, act different when certain people are around, when other people are around. Kids, you might act different knowing your parents can hear what you're saying. You might act different if you know the pastor's coming over for dinner. We act different around certain people. I'm not saying that's always bad. I think we do have to contextualize, and we do have to adapt, but do you act like God is always around? Because he is. Paul is saying you should treat your body, and you should act as if your body is a temple, a holy place, because it is. God's presence is within you. That should convict us in some way, but it should also comfort us to know that God's presence is always with us. Go back to verse 16. Jesus says, "Alas, the Father, and he will give you another helper to be with you forever." I was asking the kids earlier if you've ever had to say bye to someone.

Have you ever missed a friend who was a long ways away, or a loved one who had moved far away, or maybe even a loved one who had passed away? So many times we miss people. We wish they were closer. Jesus' promise here is that the Spirit will come, and he will be God's presence with you forever. You'll never have to wish that the Holy Spirit lived closer. He lives within you. You'll never have to think that he is distant, or feel like you are all alone. In fact, I just want to encourage you, maybe this week there will be a moment where you feel like you are all alone. Maybe at some point this week you will feel very lonely, maybe like no one understands you, no one cares for you, no one is around to be there for you. The Bible says God has given his Spirit to be with you forever. Draw comfort from his presence in your life.

We can draw unique comfort from him because of the roles that he plays, and that leads us to the second one. The Spirit of God is not just the presence of God, but he is the paraclete. Yeah, I know. You have to really figure out how to make sure you spell that one. He is the paraclete. Now, this is a Greek word, and I would normally just go with the English word, but this is one of those times where I feel like it's a word that's hard to fully translate from one language to another. The word that's used in the Greek, I'll point it out to you here in just a moment, is this word for "paraclete." And it can be one that when you just try to translate into one English word, it may not always fully cover what that title or that role is supposed to signify. So notice again, Jesus says in verse 16, "I will ask the Father and he will give you another

helper to be with you forever." Later on in verse 26, Jesus will bring back that word "helper." So that word "helper" is the Greek word "paraclete." And I feel like "helper" is not a bad translation, but it might be a bit incomplete. Because sometimes "helper" might seem like you're the one who's supposed to be doing it, and the Spirit can just kind of help you out. Like I don't know if you've ever, you know, helped someone else who was really, they were the one doing it, and you were just kind of there as some type of support.

I can remember when my dad was doing projects around the house when I was a kid, and I was supposed to be his helper, and that just meant I needed to like hold the flashlight in a certain place. That was important so he could see, but I wasn't really like doing much of the work. Sometimes when you think about the Spirit being a helper, maybe that's what you think, like, "Well, I've got all these things to do." And I know, yeah, maybe the Holy Spirit can help me out. The word "periclete" literally means to come alongside. And that's why it gets translated as "helper," because that is the idea, that he is coming alongside, but really that idea of coming alongside was really more in the sense of to defend and to protect. It wasn't just kind of an aid when you need it, but it was really someone that you depended upon for your well-being. A lot of times it had a legal connotation, that the periclete was one who would come to defend you, one who would come to argue your case.

In fact, Jesus said in this passage, "He is a periclete. He is a helper, and God's going to send another one." And that title, "periclete," is used for Jesus in different places in the New Testament. One example I could give you is 1 John, chapter 2. When John says this, "My little children, I'm writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." That word "advocate" is the same word, "periclete," that you read "helper" in other places. The idea here is that the Spirit plays a complex and beautiful role in our lives, that he is the one who comes alongside, and in fact probably some of the other roles we're going to talk about could kind of come under this. It's probably more than we could just cover in a few minutes, but one of the things I just want you to consider is the fact that Jesus referred to him as another "periclete," meaning Jesus was the first "periclete."

Specifically, you think about the way Jesus is speaking to his disciples here. What are some of the roles that Jesus played in their lives? Jesus comforted his disciples in the midst of the storm. Jesus taught his disciples the truth and helped them to understand. Jesus rebuked his disciples and corrected them when they started to go astray. Jesus comforted his disciples, brought them peace not just in the midst of a storm, but even in the hardest moments when he was going to be taken away from them and crucified. This is the role the Spirit wants to play in your life, to comfort you, to guide you, to teach you, to reprove and correct you.

One of the main ways that he does this is through his role of teaching. Sorry, "periclete" was already kind of a weird word. The third role that the Spirit plays is he is our pedagogue. All right, I'll just tell you right up front on this one. I just like the alliteration at this point, and so I was looking for a word that started with "p." "Periclete" was intentional, okay? I like that word from the Greek. This one I just kind of forced because I wanted them to all start with the same letter. But Jesus says that the Holy Spirit is our teacher. There's a root word for this in that he is our pedagogue. He is the one who is instructing us. In fact, Jesus promises his disciples that even though he is going to leave them, they can continue in what he has taught them, and the Spirit will actually help them in this process. Go towards the bottom of the passage in verses 25 and 26. He says, "These things I've spoken to you while I am still with you, but the Helper," the Periclete, 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." Jesus says, "I've been teaching you, I've been speaking to you, and now as I go away, I want you to know that God's going to send a new teacher, and he is going to teach you all these things, and he's going to help you remember all the things that I have taught you."

Now, this seems to be a word spoken specifically to the disciples. In other words, Jesus is saying, "The Spirit is going to come, and he is going to help you, my disciples, my apostles, to understand and know the truth that I have been teaching you these years, and to help you remember all the things that I have said." And one of the things that we believe is that what we have in God's Word is the teaching of the apostles. In the New Testament, the teachings, the writings that we have are of the apostles. We are walking through a creed called the "apostles creed" because it was foundational doctrines of the faith that the apostles, the followers of Jesus, taught the early church. What we are saying is that we believe that the Holy Spirit came, taught the disciples, helped them remember what Jesus had said, helped lead them into the truth that they might teach others and record it so that we now have the truth of God.

So what does that tell us about the way the Spirit wants to teach us? The Spirit is going to teach us, as the people of God now, through the Word that he already inspired. So he said, "I'm going to lead you into all truth so that you can record all this truth so that when my people who believe in me and follow me want to know me, want to walk in my truth, they will have it here." The Spirit is going to teach us through the Word that he inspired. So here's what I want to encourage you to do this week. Find some time to spend a few moments, at least just a couple of minutes each day in God's Word. We often try to encourage just being in the Word on a regular basis. You could just be in the Bible for maybe even just a few minutes. Maybe it's just a verse to start. But would you spend a few minutes in God's Word this week? And would you, as you do that, not approach it as if it's some textbook that you have to learn from or some rule book that you just have to follow, or even just like some nuggets of wisdom that you can find, even though some of those things are true. But would you just take a moment and hear from the Holy Spirit? You talk about having a relationship with the person. The Spirit has inspired these words to teach you, to speak to you. Would you approach the Word as if it is a chance for you to grow in a relationship with this person who is fully God? To hear from God himself.

The Bible says of itself that it is living and active. It is not just words on a page. Because the Spirit has not just inspired it, but the Spirit actually continues to illuminate our hearts and our minds. To understand and believe and live out the things that we see in Scripture. So when you come to the Word, you're not just finding an old book that the Spirit inspired thousands of years ago, but you're actually finding a living Word that the Spirit is still speaking through. The Spirit is not going to change what he said here. It's not like he's going to give some new meaning to it. The Spirit is going to help you understand what it has always meant. But the Spirit will help to lead you to believe it, to embrace it, to live it out. This is why I pray before every sermon, the Spirit would speak to us in these moments, but also that the Spirit would be at work for us to be doers of the Word. This is something we can only do with the Spirit working in our lives.

He is our teacher guiding us from his Word. Go to his Word this week and spend some time with your helper, with your paraclete, with your teacher. Spend some time not just reading words on a page, but hearing from him, allowing him to teach you, allowing him to equip you to live the life that God has called you to live. This leads to the fourth role of the Spirit. The Spirit is the power of God in our lives. The Spirit is not just there to be God's presence, to comfort us. He is there to come alongside of us, to help us, to teach us. And he does so by actually empowering us. As I said, all of these could be explained way more. We could spend lots of time in the New Testament seeing how the Spirit works, empowering us as the people of God, bearing fruit, as we talked about with the kids, to live the lives that God has called us to live. But that's what I want you to take away.

The Spirit empowers the people of God to live as the people of God. It might look different in different people's lives, but the Spirit doesn't empower the people of God just to do maybe supernatural things, although it might look like that at times. The main thing the Spirit does is he empowers the people of God to live as the people of God. Jesus said to the disciples, "You're going to receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you to be my witnesses, to go out and do what I've called you to do." Here he focuses, I think, mostly on keeping his commandments. Go back to verse 15, the way Jesus begins. "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." Keeping the commandments of God is not something each one of us can do on our own power, our own strength.

In fact, even loving God, loving Jesus, as we were created to do, is not something we do in and of ourselves. We've been just saying that a little bit earlier. Teach me to love you as I'm supposed to love you. Teach me to know that you are near to walk with you. There is a sense in which we cannot do the things that we are called to do in our own power, but because the Spirit of God has come upon us, is within us, we have the power to live as the people of God. Jesus connects these things in verse 23. "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, my father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him." You see the connection there between keeping the word and loving God and God's presence in your life?

He has given you his Spirit to empower you to live as the people of God. You say, "Well, how do I get that power?" Well, again, I think it's about cultivating a relationship. And so one of the things that I would just say, there's more that could be said, one of the best ways to be empowered by the Holy Spirit is to not grieve the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that the Spirit can be grieved by our lives and by our actions. I think the Spirit is most grieved when we walk in sin without confessing it or repenting of it. I believe that when we are grieving the Holy Spirit, while he can do whatever he wants to

do, it certainly probably limits the ways that the Spirit can work in us and through us. You want to be empowered by the Holy Spirit? Don't grieve the Holy Spirit. Not expecting you to be perfect, but confess that sin. Repent of that sin. Allow the Spirit to lead you in that conviction that you might walk with him, that you might be empowered by him, that you might know the peace of him in your life. And this is the last role of the Spirit in our lives. And that is the peace of God. Jesus is instructing his disciples here, but it doesn't seem like he's primarily just trying to do a lesson as much as he is trying to comfort them.

And I know I'm covering a lot of theology and using Greek words and all sorts of things today, but I hope that more than just a Bible lesson, you would draw comfort from this word. You'd be able to find peace because of the Spirit of God that has been given to us. He says, "I'm going away, but I'm not leaving you as orphans. Giving you the Spirit that will be with you forever, God's presence with you. One who comes alongside of you and helps you, one who teaches you, who empowers you, who gives you this peace." He ends the passage where we end in. He says in verse 27, "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." He says the Spirit coming into your life can offer you a peace that the world cannot offer. Because the Bible says that the Holy Spirit comes and he assures us of the salvation that Jesus has bought on our behalf.

Ephesians 1 describes the Spirit as a seal that is placed on us as believers to mark us as the people of God, to assure us of our salvation. Jesus is saying whatever you're going to experience in this world, and the disciples were about to experience a lot, and in their lives they would experience a lot of tribulation, a lot of trials, a lot of persecution. But he says, "I am leaving you with the peace that comes from the assurance of knowing that you have been made right with God, knowing that your salvation is secure, knowing that your eternity is secure, knowing that you are with me now and will be with me forever."

Do you know that type of peace? Some of you may not because you've never trusted in Jesus and what he has done for you. The Bible says when you trust in Jesus, you receive the Holy Spirit. There's nothing extra you have to do. There's no special ritual or baptism that has to happen to you. When you place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, God gives you his Spirit to be his presence within you, to teach you, to guide you, to empower you. And what a peace that offers you, a peace that you cannot find in this world with everything being changed, a peace that you cannot find in your life as you're always having to figure out who you are and what your value and worth is in the world, a peace that is secure. Do you know that type of peace? Do you walk in that peace?

I think so often even those of us who have received the Spirit don't walk in the peace that the Spirit offers because we don't cultivate that relationship. We don't hear from him in his word. We don't allow him to guide us and to fill us and to direct us. And so we grieve him and we don't know the peace that he offers. Maybe today you would even just think about the areas of life where you're maybe just most anxious. Maybe you're most afraid. Maybe you're lacking peace in a certain area. What it'll look like for you to grow in your relationship with the Spirit, the third person of God, given to you, to be God with you forever. What it'll look like for you to trust him, to build your relationship with him in such a way that he would bring you peace even in that area of your life.