

Session 12 The Power and Ministry of the Spirit (Jn. 14:16-20)

I. REVIEW: THE SPIRIT WILL ANSWER OUR PRAYER TO LOVE JESUS MORE

A. Jesus connected His promise to answer prayer in 14:13-14 to the Spirit empowering them to love Him in 14:15-16. Pray with faith for the Spirit to impart the Father's love for Jesus in you (17:26).

14“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. ***15***If you love Me, keep My commandments...
16the Father...will give you another Helper...” (Jn. 14:14-16)

B. It takes the power of God to love God. Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (14:15, 21, 23). The call to love God is the point repeated most by Jesus in John 13-17. He linked loving God to obeying God five times in John 14 (14:15, 21, 23, 24, 31).

C. Jesus never apologized for calling people to obedience. He contends for our liberty and greatness. Serving Jesus faithfully and denying our lustful desires are “the theater” in which God chose for us to express our love to Him. Each of us has a different struggle according to our personality and life circumstances. We each have a different “assignment,” from which we offer Him our gift of love.

D. John 14:12-27 gives details on how we are to participate in the transforming union with God. In John 14, four things come together as the fruit of our union with God—*answered prayers* (14:12-14), empowered to walk in *obedient love* (14:15-20), enjoying *God's manifest presence* (14:21-24), and being *taught by the Spirit* (14:25-27). God designed all this for us in His kindness.

II. THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS THE REDEEMED (JN. 14:16-18)

A. Jesus is so zealous for us to love Him that He sent us the Spirit to supernaturally teach, inspire, and empower us to love God with a spirit of obedience and to participate in union with God (14:16-20).

16“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —***17***the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ***18***I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (Jn. 14:16-18)

B. ***I will pray the Father***: Jesus continues to ask the Father for things that the Father has promised. This is the model for the believer—to ask for things that God has promised.

13“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give [a greater measure of] the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Lk. 11:13)

C. ***He will give you another Helper***: The Father set us up for success by sending us the ultimate Helper to empower us (14:16, 26). The Spirit will help us to the degree that we ask Him. Weak people can be used by the Lord to do miracles (14:12), pray in a way that He answers (14:13-14), walk in obedient love (14:15), experience His manifest presence (14:21-24), and be taught by the Spirit (14:25-27) because Jesus sent the Helper to us. Thus, this lifestyle is not out of reach for us.

D. Another Helper: The Greek word *paraclete* is translated “Helper” (NAS), “Counselor” (Holman), “Advocate” (NIV), or “Comforter” (KJV). The term refers to a *legal counsellor*—an advocate who represents someone in court. The verbal form *parakaleo* is often translated as “to call alongside” in order to strengthen, help, or to represent one as a defense attorney in the Roman legal system.

1. In secular Greek, a *parakletos* was one who helped a person charged as a criminal.
2. Jesus is the first Paraclete who helped His first apostles. The Spirit is “another” Paraclete (14:26; 15:26; 16:7) who took Jesus’ place after His death. The title *parakletos* continues to refer to Jesus as our advocate (“lawyer”) before the Father in the courts of heaven (1 Jn. 2:1).
3. Jesus prays for us before the Father (Rom. 8:34), and the Spirit prays for us and within us (Rom. 8:26). The Spirit prays for, empowers, teaches, comforts, and guides the redeemed.

³⁴...***It is Christ who...at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)***

²⁶***The Spirit helps in our weaknesses. We do not know what we should pray for...the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26)***

E. He may abide with you forever: The Spirit came on various leaders under the old covenant on a temporary basis (Ps. 51:11). In the new covenant the Spirit dwells with and in the redeemed forever

F. The Spirit of truth: Jesus identified the Helper as “the Spirit of truth” (14:17; 15:26; 16:13) who communicates truth to His people. He guides them into the truth about God, His Word, His will, their personal life, ministry, and loved ones, including things about the future (16:13), and more.

¹⁷***“The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” (Jn. 14:17)***

G. Whom the world cannot receive: Jesus highlighted two aspects of the Spirit’s ministry that unbelievers cannot receive—they do not “see” or “know” Him—they cannot recognize His activity.

H. You know Him: Believers can “know” or recognize the Spirit’s activity in their life and in the lives of others. They perceive His activity—including His works, “whispers,” and prophetic impressions.

I. He dwells with you and will be in you: The Spirit lives “in” the redeemed impacting their mind and heart or emotions (Heb. 10:16) and is “with” them—affecting their circumstances. (Isa. 52:12).

¹⁶...***“I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them”... (Heb. 10:16)***

¹²...***for the LORD will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. (Isa. 52:12)***

J. A vibrant walk with Him is essential in our quest to experience more of God. It is futile to seek deep experiences with God while neglecting the Spirit’s presence and His leadership in our lives. ***We cannot go deep in God with a dull spirit.*** We can all fellowship with the Holy Spirit. He is a dynamic Person who lives inside us to empower our hearts as we walk in friendship with Him. John of the Cross (1542-1591), a Spanish monk, spoke of the Spirit as “*the living flame of love.*”

¹⁴The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Cor. 13:14, NAS)

¹If you have any...comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit... (Phil. 2:1, NIV)

K. At the new birth, our spirit is joined to the Holy Spirit, so that we are one spirit with God.

¹⁷But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. (1 Cor 6:17)

L. The Spirit flows from spirit. The NAS accurately translates this as our “innermost man.”

³⁸He who believes in Me...out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. (Jn. 7:38, NKJ)

³⁸He who believes...from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water. (Jn. 7:38 NAS)

M. ***I will not leave you orphans*** (14:18): Jesus will not leave His people as vulnerable orphans who often feel alone and helpless without direction, protection, provision, or a sense of belonging.

In 14:18, Jesus restated the promised divine blessing of being “with His disciples” from 14:16-17. The promise of not being left as *orphans* speaks of God’s blessing using family language.

¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵...you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God... (Rom. 8:14-17)

N. ***I will come to you***: Jesus applied His promise to “come to them” in three ways. First, this refers to His physical return (14:3) pointing back to what He said in Matthew 24:30. Second, He comes to them by appearing to them physically soon after His resurrection (14:3, 19; 16:16-17; 21:1-14). Third, He came to them spiritually by dwelling in them through the Spirit given at Pentecost (14:3, 16-18, 23, 26; 16:13).

III. JESUS’ DISCIPLES ARE CALLED TO LIVE IN DEEP UNION WITH GOD (JN. 14:19-20)

A. Because of Jesus’ resurrection life, His people will live forever. Jesus made a dramatic declaration calling His people to participate in the union that He enjoyed with His Father as a Man (14:20). We can engage in conversation with Him with these promises saying, “Thank You, show me more!”

¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more [because He would die the next day], but you will see Me [after His resurrection]. Because I live, you will live also [be resurrected]. ²⁰At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.” (Jn. 14:19-20)

B. ***At that day you will know***: The disciples came to know that Jesus was in the Father, and they were in Jesus, and Jesus was in them. “That day” refers to the day of His resurrection (Sunday) and also the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Jesus’ resurrection appearances would convince them of His deity or that He was “in” the Father—and of their union with Jesus, or that they “in” Him and He “in” them.

1. By saying, “You are in Me” and “I in you” in 14:20, Jesus added to what He said in 14:10, that “I am in the Father” and “the Father is in Me.” This was a new revelation to them.

¹⁰Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?...¹¹Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works... (Jn. 14:10-11)

2. John 14:20 is one of the most glorious statements in the Scripture—He applied the relational reality that He enjoyed with the Father in His humanity to our relationship with God. This is the climactic point of John 14. It is how we overcome trouble and mature in love (14:1, 15).

C. Jesus developed what He taught here in 14:20 by what He taught in 15:5-7.

⁵“...He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit...⁷If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” (Jn. 15:5-7)

D. ***You in Me***: Born-again believers are “in” Jesus. We “abide in Him” by talking with Him, trusting in Him, and obeying Him (15:5) and by our words and thoughts being “in” His heart. The very fact that He answers our prayers and gives us eternal rewards related to our words and deeds assures us that they are “in” His heart—that they move His heart and that He delights in them.

E. ***I in you***: Jesus is “in” a believer. He lives or “abides in us” by His Spirit dwelling in our spirit, by releasing the Spirit’s activity in our heart and mind, and by His words “living in” our heart (15:7). How glorious that the very substance of God’s Person dwells in the spirit of a born-again believer!

F. The Spirit is the Helper who came to lead into transforming union with God. The Spirit helps us to develop some of the elements that describe the union between the Father and Jesus—in their *mind* (thoughts), *heart* (feelings), *will* (values), *words* (speech), and *works* (actions). We are to seek to think, feel, value, speak, and act in ways that agree with God, knowing that this deeply moves the Father’s heart. Over time, what He thinks, feels, says, and does will fill our hearts.

G. Thoughts and words in agreement with the Spirit help bind people to God and to each other. Thoughts and words are two of the main elements in the union between Father and Son and between Jesus and His people. We grow spiritually as we exert effort to bring our thoughts and words into unity with God’s; this is foundational to abiding in Christ (15:4-7; cf. Ps. 19:14).

¹⁴“Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight...” (Ps. 19:14)

IV. ALL BELIEVERS ARE CALLED TO ENJOY GOD’S MANIFEST PRESENCE (JN. 14:21)

A. Jesus called us into union with God by experiencing His presence on our mind and emotions. Jesus linked obedient love to our capacity to experience God’s manifest presence (14:21, 23).

²¹“He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” (Jn. 14:21)

B. ***It is he who loves Me***: This one of the most glorious things that Jesus can say to person.

- C. ***Manifest Myself to him***: Jesus linked obedient love to our capacity to experience God's manifest presence (14:21, 23). A believer's obedience does not earn God's love, but it positions them to experience more of His love for them because they live in agreement with His heart and leadership. The implication of the phrase "I am in you" in 14:20 is described in 14:21: "Jesus moves in us by His manifest presence on our mind and emotions." This is the normal Christian life.
- D. Our capacity to receive and return His love increases as we increase our agreement with Him. Obedience brings our mind and emotions into agreement with Jesus' heart—He is the most beautiful, fascinating, interesting, happy, and satisfied person who ever walked the earth.