



## JOHN: JESUS AND THE HELPER

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John 14: 15-31

You're listening to a sermon from Doxa Church. In this the third installation of our gospel of John series, we'll take a look at the upside down nature of our Messiah, the many prophecies of his death and resurrection, and the unstoppable nature of God's redemptive plan for his people. For more information about Doxa or to join us for a Sunday gathering, go to [doxa-church.com](http://doxa-church.com).

Good evening, Doxa. We are going to be reading scripture from Gospel of John chapter 14 verses 15-31.

"If You love me, you will keep my commandments. And 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. 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, and 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 Iscariot) said to him, 'Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?' Jesus answered him, 'If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and 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. And 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 and 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 heart be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I will come to you." If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go from here.'" Please be seated.

Well thanks Habby. Good afternoon, everyone. My name's Eddie, if you're new. I'm a lead teaching pastor here with Doxa. So glad you guys could all join us. Everyone looks pretty good in here. Yeah. Everyone looks healthy. Enjoying the beautiful weather out. It's gorgeous. No. You all looked, you came in like you just left a funeral. I mean, it was sad. Hey, we're gonna be in John chapter 14. If you've got a Bible or an app, verse 16 is where we're gonna start. Hey just like pastor Donald mentioned, I had the opportunity to walk the space a little bit this past week. It's been awesome. Like I got to see some different things and bounce around and, you know, just to get to enjoy the space. And it's been, it was really awesome, it was great seeing it. Well, one of the things you'll notice is all of the the developments that are going up. A ton of developments are going up, which is great. And one I keep mentioning is really awesome. And it's actually more recently built and it's actually almost done. So if you were to go around the building and take a look at some of the stuff that's going in, you'd see it. It's actually the Lennar Development. It's 450 units going in. Office space. Awesome. I think we have a picture of that. But either way it's been, it's really, there it is. This one's going up just a couple blocks from us. And if you've been by the church building, it doesn't quite look like that. Like there's gonna be that sort of stuff going on, but actually there's a lot happening right near the church building. You see, the reason is, because of the light rails going in just a few blocks from the Redmond building, the whole area's being rezoned. So the whole area's being rezoned from commercial space to residential and retail. So there's gonna be a lot more people in the region. There's also another development we just found out about this week that's literally down the street from Doxa and this one is called The Spark. It's right at the entrance of Marymoor, just by the Redmond Community Center. This one's 240 units or 220 units, rather, townhouses all these different things. It's great. Why do I say all this? Why does all this matter? Well, Doxa's building is gonna be in a place where there's gonna be lots of different people who need to hear about the gospel. There's going to be close to 10,000 new units going in in Redmond over the next few years, 2,500 within a mile of the church building. Going in. That is people that live near in proximity to where our sort of home base will be. That's great. We obviously have our missions out on mission, living our lives in our workplaces, in our families, all of that, it is all incredibly valuable. And then we also have the sort of the other areas of influence near our building. And so we want to, we want these people to come to know Jesus, and so all that to say, the Holy Spirit has gone out ahead of Doxa and has strategically placed us in an area where there are gonna be people that need to hear about the gospel. That's what we're here for. Right? We'll hear about Jesus. So I'm excited for that. I hope you're getting excited about it, you're catching a little of that vision. And yeah. And guess what we're actually praying and we're gonna be preaching about the Holy Spirit. So we're gonna learn how to leverage that person right now.

Okay. Are you awake? That's right. All right. Yes. Thank you, Josh. Let me pray for us and we'll get started.

Father, God, I pray for your Holy Spirit to be present with us. It's not always easy to understand, but the spirit who the spirit is. And so I just pray that you fall, Lord God, on this room, that we might feel the palpableness of you, your presence, in us, around us, through us. I pray that our hearts and minds are open and ready and receptive to what you're about to do. And I pray that we make much of you today, Lord, and just reject anything that just comes outta me that's just me with the Spirit, will what the Spirit wants into the minds and the hearts of those listening. We love you, in His name. Amen.

All right. So when you think of God, imagine with me for a bit that you're imagining who God is in your mind, and you're trying to picture who God is. What do you picture? What's the image you picture? Do you picture a, here's my guess, big, long, white beard? Anybody? Balding for sure. Not a full head, right? Cuz he is old, cuz he's God. And so no hair, big bushy beard. I'm assuming wearing white, right? He's probably not wearing blue in your mind or certainly not red. That's the shirt the devil wears, right? He wears red. God, he wears white, right? Is that the image you've sort of conjured up in your mind? Maybe lightning coming out of his eyes or his hand or something. That's kind of like Zeus, right? Is that what you picture? Well, if you're picturing that, you're probably picturing something, some image of like God the Father, you're trying to imagine it. And then pop culture has given us a lot of those images and we're just kind of embracing those, right. Well, we do know that no one has seen God. That's what Jesus actually says. No one has actually seen the Father except the son. So we know that those images probably aren't accurate, but that's what we imagine. Right? And maybe let's say, when I ask you if you could imagine God, you actually imagined the son. Let's say you imagined a guy, not with a white beard, but with a brown beard. And not with no hair or balding, but with lots of flowing locks, right? Like the handsome Portuguese fellow that played Jesus in the history channels by you know that guy. He's great. I actually imagine that guy as Jesus now. Like I can't, it's stuck in my head anyway. If you think of that, you think of Jesus, right? So it's easy to picture the Father, it's easy to picture the son, but did you know there's another member of the Trinity, the triune Godhead, that we often don't picture? God the Holy Spirit, he doesn't get the same play in our minds that God the Father and God the Son does. So picturing God the Spirit's often difficult because we have fathers, we have sons. We can kind of sort of imagine them, right? We get it. But the Holy Spirit isn't some third option on a team with a dynamic duo of a father and a son, any sort of third fiddle or third chair, so to speak. He's actually, co-equal, co-creator, co-eternal. Okay. This is the Holy Spirit, the person of the Holy Spirit.

Now where we find ourselves at this point in the story, by the way, is we still find ourselves at the same table we've been talking about for the last few weeks. Jesus is still there very much trying to encourage his very much discouraged disciples. Okay? And he decides he's gonna make a really powerful promise in this moment. Very powerful promise. In fact, this promise would change the way humanity understands God. He says that Jesus, again, he's going to leave to go to the Father, but that he is going to go ask the Father for the Holy Spirit, the

Helper to go to the disciples. This is utterly gonna change the way they've ever thought about God. Now one theologian says, when you picture, when you picture God, you picture sort of an oblong blurry gray, right? But that is not the Holy Spirit we see in the scripture. This person, this Holy Spirit, he's not abstract at all. In fact, he's going to facilitate all of the change we hope to make in our lives. He's gonna facilitate our growth and he's going to facilitate the expansion of the gospel to the nations. This is not some sort of abstract force. Okay? This person, this spirit would even inspire and empower the writings that we're currently reading from. The Holy Spirit divinely inspired the Word of God. Okay. This is unbelievable. And for those of you that say, yes, I believe in Jesus as my God. And maybe that's you, your savior, that you actually personally have the Holy Spirit dwelling in you right now. Think about that for a second. What a resource you have. God himself in you. Wow. But if you wanna take advantage of that, which I hope you do, if you find yourself there or you, maybe you wanna know a little bit more about Jesus, you might wanna know who the Holy Spirit is. You might wanna understand how he works and what his purpose is. So in this passage we learn three big ideas about the Holy Spirit. Okay. And I'll keep it really basic for you. First one, who is the Holy Spirit? Second, how do we receive the Holy Spirit? And then third, what does the Spirit do for us? Make sense? Okay. Who the Holy Spirit is? How do we receive him? What does he do for us?

Let's talk about the first one. Who is the Holy Spirit? Verse 16. And Jesus says,

"I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever."

So again, Jesus here tells the disciples he will leave them as he's been saying throughout these last few passages. He's gonna go to the Father. And then he's gonna ask the Father to send spirit to his disciples, to all his followers. So here we actually get a really cool picture of the triune Godhead here. We get this wonderful vision of God the Father, God the son, God the Spirit all in one. Now, kind of a complicated idea, but there are three divine persons, father, son, spirit in one God. Okay. That's what God's nature is. Okay. And these are three distinct personal and interrelated ways of being the totality of who God is. Okay. That's what we're dealing with here. But let's just hone out and talk about this Holy Spirit here for a second. Now, if you think of the Holy Spirit and you think of the force from Star Wars, it's not what we're talking about. Okay. Like right. And things go flying or whatever, or you convince people of things they don't, I don't, I'm not a Star Wars guy. I'm gonna make some enemies. I hope not. I hope we're on the same page with that. We're good. Are we on the same page with that? Or are we get anyone walking out? Okay, good. All right. At the wrong church, half the church gets up and you're like, well, did I really wanna be there anyway, if they're all anyway? Don't, don't do that. It's my wife.

If you picture the Holy Spirit, like the force, he's not the force. Holy Spirit is not a magic power. He's not a like go and something happens and he takes over you. Okay. He is actually a person. He's a person in scripture. And in scripture we see the Spirit do person things, for instance, the Spirit speaks, he thinks, he makes decisions in the scriptures. He strengthens. He encourages. He testifies. And the Spirit gets emotional and even grieves, just like a regular person. Okay. Now in this passage, Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as a Helper, which is an interesting term.

Okay. In some of your other translations will say counselor, the Latin would say an advocate. So the Holy Spirit is really, think about it like sort of a combination of this spiritual helper, counselor, and advocate. Okay. That's what the spirit is. Think about someone in your life that's been a great counselor. Think about someone who's given you great advice for someone that's helped you along in your life. Now, if that's still confusing, I put together a little definition for you that I think will explain, okay. Here's my definition. The Holy Spirit is a member of the triune God whose role is to aid counsel us as we strive to become more like Jesus. Even broader, the Holy Spirit is working to establish the Kingdom of God on earth through the influence of believers, Christians. Okay. So the Holy Spirit is essentially trying to carry out his work of redeeming and renewing people and the rest of creation. That's what, that's what the Spirit's job, that's what the Spirit's mission is trying to do. So, instead of thinking of the Spirit, like the force, think of the Spirit as someone who comes alongside you to help you in your journey as you try to pursue Jesus. Right? That's what the Spirit does. Quick question. How many of you have worked through a really difficult situation in your past, and maybe you had a counselor or a wise professional or family member or friend help you through that? Has anyone had somebody like that? I have, I know I have. Maybe they gave you advice. Maybe they were present for you. Maybe they, maybe they just, you just needed to vent and they listened or maybe they actually helped you kind of solve the problem. Right? That's what the Spirit does. The Spirit present actually wants to help you. The Spirit is a true advocate who comes alongside right. And aids. In fact, the word there, you know, actually means to come alongside in the Greek language. Okay. So ask the question yourself, what's the emotional or spiritual thing you're working through right now that you need help with? What is it? What's the thing? Are you stuck in a sin? Are you deciding between jobs? Are you, you know, bringing a grievance to somebody that you need to share with them? Are you struggling in something specific? Are you looking for a spouse? Are you trying to figure out what school to put your kids in? Are you praying about accepting the Lord Jesus as savior? What is it? Well, the Holy Spirit can come alongside you and help you. What if you had sort of a 24/7 divine guidance that you could just access at any moment? That's the Spirit. We so overlook that. We so overlook a literal, 24/7 advocate counselor that's helping you fulfill God's mission on the planet and you have access to that. And we oftentimes do miss it. The Spirit does want to help you. And that's what its goal is. Or that's what his goal is rather. Okay. So that's who he is.

How do we receive this spirit? Cuz you might be thinking, "That sounds great. Yes, I'm in. Okay. I would like to know how I receive this spirit." Glad you asked. Okay. Look at verse 15 in the text. It says,

"If you love me," Jesus talking, "You will keep my commandments."

Now this is a phrase Jesus likes to use, friends. He says, if you love me, you'll do what I ask you. Because my plan for you isn't a dictatorial evil plan that lure over you and just decreeing over you for my own benefit. It's actually because I know what's best for you and what's best for the world. So Jesus says, if you do that, then I know you love me. Right? And it's for the good of you. It's for the good of the people in your life. And it's good for all of my creation. So I want you to do that. He actually goes a little further in verse 21 of our text. Look at it. It says this.

"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father." Okay, listen up. "And I will love him and manifest myself to him." So if you love me, you will be loved by my Father and I will appear to you, and I will manifest myself to you. You want the presence of Christ in your life? Follow him.

I had this awesome coach I loved when I was playing football and he followed me to a few different teams when I was playing professionally and he was, I liked him because he always used analogies. He was this wise older coach and he always talked in metaphor or story. He was like Jesus, to me, you know, he was just really cool. And this story is not like Jesus though, let me just preface by saying that. So one time he wanted to make the point that, you know, as a football player, it's great to say you do things well, but you should actually do them. Right. It has to show up on the film, right? So he was telling an analogy and he said, you know, actually I used to have this player some years back, he was an older veteran. He was married. He was married a long time and had some kids. And he, because the lifestyle of the NFL got to him, he started cheating on his wife. Yep. He cheated on his wife and he didn't just do it once. He did it a lot for several years, over the course of years and years and years. And he had, and eventually he kind of fell in love with this one woman. And he started seeing this one woman over and over again. And one time they're sitting there, they're laying in bed and it's kind of getting late. And he notices his phone starts ringing. Phone ringing constantly, constantly, constantly. Finally, he's like, you know what? This is my wife. I gotta pick this up. I gotta get outta here. And the woman goes, oh, come on, forget that. And the guy goes wait, what? Hold on a second. Like, this is, that's my wife. I mean, don't just say that. I mean I care about her and she's the mother of my kids. And she's like, oh, you don't love her. And then he is like, are you serious? And he starts getting upset and he starts getting real mad. How can you say, I don't love her. Of course I love her. And she goes, come on, you don't love her stop being ridiculous. Then he gets really mad. He gets out of the bed. He starts fuming. He's putting his clothes on and he's furious at her. Like, I can't believe this. I can't believe this has been a mistake. How could you ever say that? I absolutely love my wife. And then the woman says, if you loved her, you wouldn't be here. You wouldn't be here. It makes a lot of sense, doesn't it? If you love someone, you wouldn't be in that scenario. We actually have a phrase in football that says this, what you do speaks louder than what you say. What you do speaks louder than what you say. Yeah. If I said to my wife that I loved her, but I never showed her in any way that I loved her by doing anything she ever asked me or even taking care of my kids. Right. We call that gaslighting now. Right? Yeah, of course I love you. Yeah. You're crazy. I love you. Well, but you're not doing anything you say that I'm asking and I need a lot of help. Oh no, no, no. Don't worry. I love you. You're crazy. We do that with Jesus. We go, God, no, no, no, no. I absolutely love God. Do you do anything he says? Not really. Probably not. If you love Jesus, you'd obey him. You'd follow him. Walk with him. You'd love one another like he asked us to do last week. If you don't, how can you say you love him? If you don't do anything.

Consider for yourself there are areas and spaces in your life where God is trying to work, right? What are the areas in your life that God is trying to help you overcome something that you know you're doing, you know what God says about the issue, but you're continually doing the

opposite. What is that thing in your heart? God's trying to help you overcome that. My advice to you is to go to Jesus in repentance and ask for real change by the power of the spirit, because otherwise you might not receive that spirit because sincere trust in Jesus with a heart that seeks his will and does his will is an indication of an authentic follower of Jesus, which then allows you to receive the Holy Spirit. So how do you get the Spirit? You follow Jesus, Jesus Christ calls you, you obey him. The power of the indwelling spirit is then placed in you. Okay. That's wonderful. Okay. Now what else? Okay. So we talked about a few things, who the Holy Spirit is, how do we receive the Spirit?

Now we're gonna spend most of our time here. What does the Spirit do for us? Okay. What does he do for us now? The first thing the Spirit does for you is all about location. And I've already mentioned it a couple times. Okay. Verse 17 with me.

"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."

Okay? So the Holy Spirit is not just alongside you, he's inside you. For those that call themselves Christians and have experienced what I just talked about in the last section, that transforming power, the Holy Spirit is not just alongside you, he's inside you. So the Holy Spirit helps us by aiding us, or it aids us by dwelling inside of us as his permanent home. Now you might think like, what does that mean? And why does that matter? I think that's a fair question. And maybe you're even thinking, okay, Jesus enables that. But what about all the people in the Old Testament? Like did they, there was no Jesus, did they have the Spirit inside of them, or what? I think that's a great question. Actually. I think this is where the scriptures in the Bible gets really fun is getting into the, sort of, the weeds of understanding that. Like, think back for me for a second back to the temple, think back to the temple of the Old Testament. For those of you that don't know, there's this giant building that was erected. It was built by David and Solomon. It was this wonderful place where God's presence dwelt, that's what it was for. It was a place where the presence of God could dwell on earth. It was a symbol of a place where heaven, the presence of God, and earth met. Okay. That's what it was for. It was this wonderful place. And the thing about this is that God is holy. And so God is trying actively to make a way for unholy people to be in relationship with him. And the temple is one of the ways he would do that because a holy God can't be in fellowship with that which is unholy. So God's like, you know what? I think I'm gonna institute a system by which people will be able to be in a relationship with me. I'm gonna make a way. So priests would offer sacrifices in order to atone for sins, the blood of those offerings would often be sprinkled onto the inside of the temple. And this was a way to symbolize the washing, temporarily, of a person that they were able to be in right standing with God. Okay. So that's how we're in right standing with God. But then this guy Jesus shows up and everything sort of tweaks, okay? Jesus becomes the ultimate sacrifice. He dies on a cross, as he's about to do in our narrative. He rises from death three days later. And now instead of slaughtering an animal and we don't have to atone for our sins with the slaughtering of an animal through a sacrificial system, we get to look at Jesus as our ultimate sacrifice. And instead of temporary atonement for a sin we did, we get permanent eternal covering by Jesus' blood. Okay? So instead of, oh man, I gotta keep doing these

washings. We have Jesus. We repent. We go to Jesus. He becomes our ultimate sacrifice for us. Then what do we do at the temple? Oh, that's funny you ask. See the temple fell in 73 AD. It's gone. And Jesus was the ultimate temple where heaven and earth met or heaven and earth met on the planet. He ascends. And then it says John chapter 16. It is to your advantage that I go away. Why? Because I'm gonna send that Spirit out of the temple down to you. Oh, so the same spirit that was in the temple 6,000 years ago, dwells within you right now. Your body has become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Remember when I said the Holy Spirit grieves, the Holy Spirit grieves because he's in you and you are the temple of the spirit. And when you sin against him, he feels it. He's present. He knows about it. He's there. So Jesus totally changes all of this. Isn't that really cool?

Here's what this means practically. It means you're not alone. You might feel so alone. I don't know where you feel. I don't know if you feel alone in this moment. I know everyone has been struggling. I've heard stories of people really going through some hard times in their lives with their jobs, with their families, with drama, with all these sorts of things happening. Listen, you are not alone. You have the presence and power of God. God's literally in you. And hey, listen, this is not spiritual psycho babble. This is not spiritual psycho babble. This Bible's too intelligently designed for it to be that. This is knitted throughout history intentionally. Every single thing that is in this scripture has been knitted together by God and into the continuation of history, everything that's happening has been knitted by him. And if you are out of touch with the Holy Spirit in you, you're gonna miss that because the Spirit's still on the mission doing his things. So you're not alone. You might certainly feel alone when you're sick in the hospital. You're not alone. You're not alone in the hospital. You're not alone at work, when you hate your job. You're not alone standing in the cemetery of a loved one who passed away. You're not alone. You're not alone overwhelmed even in your kitchen just trying sort out your overworked overcommitted life. God is absolutely present with you in all those moments. He loves you. The Bible says, he'll never leave you nor forsake you. And the world does not offer such a solution. God does.

What else does the Spirit do for us? Well, the Holy Spirit helps us understand and remember God's will and God's Word. That's another thing he does. Okay. This is a really big deal by the way. He helps us understand and remember God's will and his word. Look at verse 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."

Okay, this book, okay, 66 books, 39 in the Old Testament, 27 in the New Testament written over the course of a thousand years by some 40 some authors, all right here, knitted together by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit didn't just bring the collection of the books together, which he most assuredly did. He inspired the authors to write the words. So the words in the scriptures, Christians believe, are divinely inspired. Okay? We believe that God spoke in history into the hearts of these people that they prophetically wrote the scriptures and then the Holy Spirit collected these books together to present us what we have here today. Okay. That's not done by man. That's not done by the church. It's not done by the Pope



or Constantine. It's done by the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why we all believe it. Okay? So the Spirit empowers the writing of the scriptures. The spirit also empowers us. And here's, what's my, it's important maybe for us to understand them, okay, to understand them. How do I understand them? The scriptures or the Holy Spirit rather helps us understand the scriptures and what's being taught in them. So that means if you're reading across a difficult passage and let's call yourself, maybe you're a Christian, and you're reading a difficult passage and going, yeah, I don't understand this at all. You can actually pray to God for the Spirit to illuminate you because the same Spirit that wrote this book is in you. And he may often make that connection. He also may do it a different way. He may bring someone into your life that knows it more, that understands the scripture far better. Or you may look it up on YouTube. I don't know what you'll do. Okay. There's a number of ways to figure it out. But the point is, the Holy Spirit is present with you. He's there. Okay. Have you ever read something in the scripture by the way, and you read it and it made literally no sense. And then maybe a year later, you go back and read it and you're like, oh, now I get it. Holy Spirit is developing you and growing you, your life experiences shaping you. Okay. And that's now all of a sudden you're able to comprehend and understand what God is trying to tell you in the scripture. He, the Spirit may illuminate specific passages in a given moment, that may happen. Now I thought about adding this in and I figured, yes, I think I should. I think it's important for us to get just a tiny bit more practical in something like this. Cuz we talk about the Holy Spirit. Let's be honest. I've been in a lot of churches. I've preached in some churches. I've been a part of other networks, denominations. Doxa's not the most, I don't know, expressive church you know what I'm talking about? See you couldn't even say anything right there. Didn't even clap, didn't even smile. It's okay. That's okay. The Holy Spirit's present with us. He's here. We can all relax. My point is that we all understand and see the Spirit and feel the Spirit in different ways. Okay. So how do we understand and listen for the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church, what are some ways we can do that? So I wanna help us out with just a couple things. Now this will not be exhaustive. So please I am, this isn't a doctrinal statement. These are just a few things I think been practically help you in your life. Okay. So first thing to know is that the Holy Spirit works in natural and supernatural ways. Now truth be told everything the Holy Spirit does is kind of supernatural, but for our understanding, there are sort of normal ways we might understand the Holy Spirit working and then certainly unordinary or unorthodox things the Holy Spirit is doing. Okay. So let's talk about natural ways the Spirit might work in you. First thing. He may just grant you desires. Spirit living in you might give you desires. He might give you desires to pursue certain things, to say something, to take on a particular profession. So desires. The spirit may prompt you as well. You may receive prompting from the Holy Spirit. Maybe you feel prompted to do something, to say something, to give something, to be a part of something like a church like this one. And this actually is really good for evangelism. God oftentimes in my heart, I'll feel a prompting to talk to someone about Jesus, right? Don't ignore those. If you feel that and you feel like, I don't know if these are my thoughts, I feel like my body is kind of doing something here, go with it. That's the Holy Spirit trying to do his will, which is to expand the kingdom of God. Okay. So desires, prompting, confirmation, confirmation. God may work in the words, emails, texts of other people to move you towards something he has been trying to tell you all along. Now, I know that that's happened to you. I know that God has been trying to tell you to do something, to be something, to say something,

to change something and somebody said something to you and you went all right, God. Okay, fine. I'll do it. Just me. No, I know it's happened to you. Okay. So hypothetically you might have been considering giving to the Onward Campaign and there might be a sermon about the Holy Spirit that week and a preacher, someone like me, might get up and say, has God been asking you to give to the Onward Campaign? And that might serve as confirmation of what you know that the Lord is already working in you to give to something like the Onward Campaign or another charity, huh? Or you may be on the fence about being a Christian or believing in Jesus and someone like me may get up and say, someone in here has been thinking about becoming a Christian or maybe they've walked away from Jesus and they've kind of inching back forward. Or maybe they're watching on the camera. And they're thinking about this idea of maybe, maybe I, maybe I should go back. And then I say, you know, if you put your faith in Jesus, you can have the power of the Holy Spirit and you can live with peace and joy instead of all the frustrations and anxiety that you experience and that you know you'd have an advocate that might serve you and help you and grow you. And you might achieve eternal salvation and spread that to the nations, people around you in your life. That hypothetically could happen to you. Not today, but it could, right? Confirmation. Trials, trials. Now this is a hard one to understand. Many of our trials can often be long teaching moments from the Holy Spirit. It's actually possible that your suffering could be ordained by the Holy Spirit and even the scriptures might come alive in a way that they wouldn't have before. And you might even serve other people with your suffering story. That's a hard one to grasp. It happens all over the Bible. Another one, giftedness, giftedness. Maybe you're particularly gifted in an area. You might be. You definitely are gifted in an area and God might use that gift to build up the body. Great story. I show up at the church building Saturday, I walk in. It's 1:30. There are people cutting wood. There's sawdust all over the place. There are tools all over and they're building this wonderful slat wall. And it's gonna go along the back of the church building. There's some of your faithful people like you, people that don't get paid, people that are using their off day to use their gifts, to be able to build a wall like that. It's amazing. Now I don't, you don't want me near those tools. I'll ruin, I'll ruin something. I mean, Alison asked me if I would paint some baseboard and I was like, dude, if you wanna redo it after I'm done, I'll do it. It's not my gift. Okay. But we all have our gifts. What are your, what are yours? So you might be particularly gifted in prayer, in encouragement, in teaching, in music, in hospitality, things like that. Okay. So those are some examples of some sort of natural ways the Holy Spirit might work in you to listen for.

But then we've got this other category of like supernatural, okay. Supernatural. Ways that God might work that are sort of unorthodox and out of the ordinary. Ways that we read about in the Bible, but maybe ways that we're not so keen on seeing today. Okay. Now again, not an exhaustive list. Okay. So just keep that in mind. What are some ways? First one, prophetic words. God may give people prophetic words. He may give you a word about something in regards to someone's life that is in regards to something in the future. And you may have that word, that information from them. Okay. It's something regarding the future that you can use to serve and help somebody. Okay. God may do that. God may also use visions or dreams. Now, maybe these aren't prophetic in nature, but maybe they're dreams or visions that help explain certain circumstances that people are going through. That when you share that story

with them, all of a sudden, something in their life makes sense. Okay? That does happen. Visions and dreams. Another thing, healing. God can and does, this is my reading and understanding of the New Testament, can and does heal people today. He still does. I believe God does heal. He can heal hearing. He can heal sight. He can heal your paralysis. He can heal your sickness. He can heal cancers. He can do it. He doesn't always do it, but he can, okay. God works in ways of healing. Another thing, words of knowledge. This is I Corinthians 12. It's actually possible that the Spirit can give you information about someone, a word to aid them or to aid the church. God may just say, go say this word to that person. And you may give that word to them and that word might not make any sense to you, but it makes a ton of sense to them or it will. Okay. Now, if you think you have a gift like this, or you think you've maybe want to know more about this, first of all, confirm anything you think you have with the Bible. Anything that you think you have that doesn't align with the scriptures is not, that's not what we're talking about here. Okay. We test everything by the scriptures. And then furthermore, find a leader, find a spiritual counselor, maybe an MC leader, maybe an elder or deacon, someone like that that might be able to help you confirm it. Okay? Okay. Quick disclaimer, for everyone who just heard that and for those of you that are really uncomfortable in your seats, okay. It's important to remember when you are talking about the gifts of the Spirit and all these things, what the Holy Spirit's goal is. What is the Holy Spirit's goal? The Holy Spirit's goal is to provide help and counsel for Christians while he actively helps to establish God's kingdom here on earth. That's the purpose. So any help the Holy Spirit provides whether natural or supernatural will always align with that goal. Okay. It will always align, which means God's not gonna just make you rich for no reason. He's not gonna make you rich. Like now it might happen, but God isn't gonna make you rich to make you rich. He's not gonna do anything for you just to do it. That's not gonna happen. There's all sorts of charlatans that will get up and will sort of sell the gifts of the spirit as a means by which you can, so you can tithe to the church and they could, you know, be on certain Instagram pages and have nice watches and all sorts of stuff. Okay. And fly in private jets. That's nonsense. Those people are snake oil salesmen. That's not what we're talking about here. We're saying that the Holy Spirit's plan is to bring about the kingdom of God, that's it. And if you're a Christian, you are part of that mission. And that may be, him serving you may be bringing forward that kingdom even further. So, the way God serves you, it may look like prophecy, it may look like you're gifted to play the guitar. It may look like he gives you wealth to be able to give as some of you certainly have been able to do with Onward. It also may mean that you suffer. There's all sorts of ways the Holy Spirit decides to work. We don't get to decide, he does. And I'm comfortable in that. Okay. And for those that are skeptical, listen, I understand there are a variety of conclusions we can come to. I totally get that. Different theological camps. Here's where I find myself. I find myself believing that God is sovereign as I read scripture. In fact, that's actually Doxa's stance. Doxa's stance is that God is all powerful, all knowing. And he is sovereign. Okay. I also believe that God will use, because he is all powerful and all knowing, he will use whatever means he deems necessary to accomplish his will. And that includes a natural and supernatural means like we see examples of in the scripture. Okay. So if you have questions, I encourage you to deep dive into God's word. See where you land. Oh. And don't forget to ask the Holy Spirit for guidance. Okay. He may illuminate something for you. Okay. But most importantly, as you're doing that, ask this

question, what has God demonstrated he is willing to do to bring about his will? What is he willing to do? Okay, great. All right.

I wanna end our time with one more thing. Okay. What else does the Spirit do for us? I wanna look at verse 27 to close us up. It says,

"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."

So the Holy Spirit brings us peace in the midst of a difficult and complex world. Now I know somebody needs some peace in here, cuz I, I could feel it in the room. In fact, I think the Holy Spirit might be illuminating that for you. Maybe it's becoming clear to you that you actually do need someone in your life to speak some peace over you. But before we get there, I do think it's noteworthy that Jesus juxtaposes peace from God and peace from the world. He says, I give you peace, but not like they give you peace. He called that out. And since he called it out, I think we should probably talk about it. It seems like he knows something about the world that we all sense, but just need to say out loud, right? Jesus knows something is off about the world. In fact, Seattle, I just read this week is ranked the most anxious region in the United States, according to a story in the Seattle times done by the US Census Bureau. So it wasn't a phony like flimsy study. 54.5% of adults feel nervous, anxious or on edge in the region. Pretty crazy. Right. And they did this study six times. And guess what happened? Seattle was the only Metro area where more than 50% of the respondents said they were experiencing anxiety in a significant way. It was the only one. I mean the facts are there, this is a tough place to live. It's anxious. But what's weird about it is this is a pretty nice place, right? There's a lot of beauty here. Seattle's kind of nice. The east side's comfortable. What's the problem? Do you know that this building sits in the sixth wealthiest zip code in the United States? This isn't Compton or Baltimore or south side Chicago. What's the problem? There's beautiful water. People have great jobs. We're the home of innovation. There's all this great stuff happening. And yet still no peace. It's almost like the peace the world gives to you is not peace at all. It just, they tell you it's peace to keep you docile. What we learned last week is that peace is trusting that the future is secure. It's the lack of a troubled heart. We know that's true right. Now peace is deep. It's not shallow. It's it's not contingent on physical circumstances, but the peace of this world very much is contingent on physical circumstances, right? Absolutely. It's carefree. It's wealth. It's a purpose for your company. It's finding time to just zone out with your headphones on, think shallow, don't go too deep, right. After all who doesn't love doing that. I love being carefree. I love having means to buy stuff. I love being able to zone out. Those things are great, but that's not what peace is. Do you understand? That's not peace. We've been told that the way you live that's peace. That's not peace. That's actually not it. In fact, those things are actually really good distractions from the fact that you have no peace at all. Think shallow. Keep busy, go on vacation because if not, man, if I dig too deep, I might have to deal with issues with my dad. Or I might have to deal with my husband's drinking problem. Or the fact that I'm just terrified of relationships. Or I might uncover my deep fear of the future because of war and pandemics and injustice. I don't wanna have to deal with that. Now, if you're feeling those things, any number of fears that's because our world is fractured. That's because we are broken. We are separated

from God. It's because we're experiencing brokenness and loss and evil in the world. Now, if I were to tell you that ultimate peace was possible, knowing all that stuff about, you know, everything you know about yourself, if you, if I were to tell you that ultimate peace was possible, would you believe it? You might, you might hope for it. This book, I, the whole point of this book is to bring peace. The whole purpose of the Bible is to bring about what's called Shalom, the ultimate peace, it's the restoration of the relationship between God and humanity. That's the purpose of the book and the Holy Spirit's role in that is to work towards that peace, expanding that kingdom through the influence of us. And man, if you are not tapping into that peace, you feel a lot like the rest of everyone does. 54.5% are stressed out, freaking out. I was talking to a friend of mine. He works in ministry way down south in Olympia area. And he wakes up and I got his permission. He said that he wakes up in the middle of the night and will drink alcohol in the middle of the night, just so he can fall back to sleep because he is so stressed out about his life. It's a hard spot to be in. Do you know the Holy Spirit is here to solve that problem? You might say, I need this Spirit. Yeah, you do. You do need him because you'll never find peace without him, because this world is not designed for you to be at peace. It's designed for you to be docile, to be distracted, to be sort of lulled to sleep by all the devices and the Netflix and all that until one day you'll awake and you'll go, where did my life go? I've been stressed out this entire time. Or I didn't see that divorce coming at all. Or man, what happened to my kid? All because we were distracted and not listening to the Spirit. God wants far more for us. I want that for you. Let's pray.

Holy Spirit, there's a lot of my friends here that feel lonely. They feel alone. They don't feel like you're present with them, Lord. And I pray that you would show them by your Spirit, that you are, that you're right there with them, that you're resting with them, that you're hanging with them, that you're alongside of them, that you're inside of them. And that you'll never leave. You'll never forsake. And there's some of my friends here that are just on the fence of trying to understand who you are and they feel the anxiousness or the craziness of this world, Lord Jesus. Would you reveal to them the craziness of the idea of a life without you? Would you reveal that to them in this moment. And for my friends that I can just feel the anguish and sorrow, I pray by the Spirit, you might be encouraged right now that the same power that rose Jesus from the grave, the same power that dwelled in the temple, is right here in this room. Thousands of years of history, God has never left his people and he has not left you yet. Open your eyes and rise from the dead and let the light of Christ shine upon you. In his name. Amen.