

The Comforter The Promise of the Holy Spirit John 16:1 – 15

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I remember staying for a few days one summer with my Grandparents and after watching my Grandpa lke go off to work as a plumber, asked him if I could go with him, learn what he does and help? I think I was maybe 12, I was tired of swimming at the public pool and bored with television. He said sure, but then said something about needing the right tools to be able to work with him. I thought maybe a wrench or two but no, he said all I would need is a shovel, gloves, and speed. I wondered, why speed?



The next morning, I found out why. There was a broken sewer line going to a farmhouse and it was my job to dig up the line and find the break.

Starting where the ground was wet seemed like the place to start and he agreed. So, I began to dig and uncovered the first bit of line. The seepage on the line told me which way to go. All Grandpa told me was, "be ready to jump and run." I found out why in about 3 minutes or so when I found the break and learned that when you uncover a clogged sewer line break, the pressure is released rather quickly as you uncover the line. Sewer geyser! I quickly moved out of the way and was grabbed by Grandpa as well before getting too wet. If he hadn't been there to grab me, I would have been completely covered. I needed his help to keep me safe and quasi non-sewage covered while I worked.

Jesus has just done the same thing for His disciples. Over the past three years, as they worked, He took the brunt of the persecution doing the heavy lifting, and they were able to help. He kept them safe. But now He is leaving. They are now the ones who will be doing the work and will need to deal with their own ditch issues. Everything is about to change, and they don't know it yet, but they are going to need more tools than a shovel. But there will be someone there to pull them out of the ditch when needed.

Jesus is walking with the disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane and talking to them at the same time. He has just discussed the three key relationships that will change as a result of what He is about to do on the cross.

The first key relationship is the one with Him. Each disciple is expected to be fruitful and produce, but that is only possible based on the nature of the relationship they each have individually with Jesus.

The second key relationship is with each other. Disciples will now be expected to love one another, in fact that love will be a key component seen by the world to identify a disciple of Jesus.

Finally, the third relationship is with the world, that which is controlled by Satan. Hatred and persecution, which in the past was dealt with by Jesus, will now be dumped on those who follow Him. The disciples will be persecuted.

At this point, they must be wondering just how they are going to make do in this new environment. Jesus says He is going back to the Father, whatever that means, and all of these changes are about to take place because of some terrible thing that is about to happen. And one of their number is a traitor to boot. Jesus has some good news though. He is going to provide them with all the resources they will ever need.

John 16:4b-11

"However, I did not say these things to you at the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I have said these things to you, grief has filled your heart. But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." (NASB 2020)

Jesus begins His announcement with a very clear statement, He is returning to the Father. Peter and Thomas had asked earlier but that was not a serious inquiry from either of them. They were more concerned with His leaving and not being included. When they asked, it was all about them, Jesus took that as a non-serious inquiry so here He says, "no one asks where He is going."



We look on and are amazed at all the disciples being so self-centered that they missed it. But we would too. So here Jesus lays it out, again, clearly; and the self-centered response is still there. They are sad about being left behind and not knowing what's next for them.

Have you ever worked for a really good boss/ One that you were happy to work for and had no problem putting in extra time for them.

I have been privileged to have had that at least once or twice. In the first case, he died suddenly and that hit us as a huge shock. The second time, it was an announced retirement.

Was I happy for my boss, yes. But I was more concerned about what was going to happen to me and my division. Whenever a new boss comes in, they tend to want their folks in management under them, so it is not unusual to see the new boss arrive, followed by "jobs being eliminated" later. Yep, been there too. I get their concern.

The cause of the disciples' grief, lamentably, is largely preoccupation with their own fate (cf. 2 Kings 6:15). This caused them to miss the positive implications of Jesus' departure both for themselves and for the continuation of his mission. (Köstenberger 2004, 470)

They have not truly heard Him speak so they are not expressing grief over what He is about to suffer as He goes to the cross. They are grieving over their own loss not quite realizing what all the changes mean.

Jesus can work with that, and it shows in His response.

John 16:7

"But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you." (NASB 2020)

Jesus is telling His disciples, who presently are feeling sorry for themselves, that His imminent departure is going to be a good thing for them and for us.

Jesus is now, for the fourth time in less than an hour, speaking about the helper, the Paraclete/Holy Spirit whom He will send to them. This is big news and for Jesus to now bring it up a fourth time, we need to focus on this a bit.

The Paraclete/Helper

Now that Jesus has teed this up for us four times now, it is obvious that the topic is important to Jesus, thus, it is important to us. Especially in light of this being one of the last things to say to His team before going to the cross.

The Greek word translated "Comforter" (Parakleetos) means "one called alongside," that is one called to stand constantly by one's side and who is ever ready to stand by us and take our part in everything in which his help is needed. (Torrey 1910, 68)

- 1. He shall not speak of Himself.
- 2. He shall glorify Me.
- 3. He will guide you into all truth.
- 4. He will show you things to come.



Besides the work of comfort within the church, He has a great work of conviction to do in the world at large: "When He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment." (Parker 1876, 98)

Let's examine the progression of what Jesus has said and learn about who this is He is sending to us.

John 14:16-17

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, so that He may be with you forever; the Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but you know Him because He remains with you and will be in you." (NASB 2020)

"I will ask the Father" - Jesus wants this to be a reality for each of us.

"He will give you" – Jesus and the Father are already on the same page on this. "another Helper (parakletos)" – Inferring that Jesus has been operating as a Paraclete for the disciples and modeling some of what they and we will experience in the future. We also know this because the Greek word used for another is allos meaning another of the same kind.

The first word is from the word allos and it does indeed mean another. But the Lord could have also used heteros which would mean another as well. The choice of words here is important and tells us who this helper is.

Allos means "other, another (of a similar kind)." (Porter, Reed and O'Donnell 2010, 440)

Heteros means "other, another (of a different kind)." (Porter, Reed and O'Donnell 2010, 445)

Jesus is telling His disciples that the Helper being promised is another like Him. He is saying that He too is the Paraclete. The Helper is a person, not an it. He is referring to Holy Spirit as the Paraclete as well as Himself.

"He may be with you forever" – As a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Paraclete who has been sent by Jesus and the Father comes to us and Jesus promises that He will be with us forever.

This is heavy. Old Testament saints were not promised that we are. Tribulation saints are not promised that we are. One million years from now in the Kingdom, the Holy Spirit will be just as real and part of us as He is today.

He "is the spirit of truth" – Implying that once He is in us, we will be able to clearly discern be true and false as it pertains to spiritual things.

The "world cannot receive" – The Paraclete is exclusively only for followers of Jesus Christ. Do not ask your unbelieving friends if they have met the Helper, they may thing you are talking about a WWE wrestler. The world simply is clueless.

The "world does not see Him or know Him" – And this is the source of persecution, this lack of perception on the part of the world system which is still running off in rebellion.

"You know Him because" – "He remains with you," and we already know that is forever. He "will be in you," and that is also forever as well.



No wonder we seem to be foreigners to unbelievers. Alien almost. We are because in each believer resides the person of the Holy Spirit communing with us and guiding us in all we do if we are indeed allowing Him to do so.

John 14:26

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and remind you of all that I said to you." (NASB 2020)

"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit" – The one Jesus is sending to His disciples is the Holy Spirit, one who is just like Him, a member of the Triune Godhead.

"The Father will send in My name" – This is more than a promise, as far as Jesus is concerned, it is a done deal. All the disciples will have Him come alongside and dwell inside. That includes us too.

"He will teach you all things" – Another incredibly heavy statement from the King of Kings for us. This one is simply breath taking. For His disciples, if there is anything they need to know about, the Paraclete will teach us. That means for us, as we serve Him, as we go about our service and there is something we need to know and learn, He will teach us, be on the lookout for that because He does use brothers and sisters as well as the Word, circumstances, situations, life to do this. If you are serving today and know what the Lord wants you to do and you feel like things simply aren't moving fast enough for you, don't sweat it. There are things He is teaching you that you must have in your tool kit for the future.

Just be faithful.

This means another amazing fact for us too. We live in a culture that believes in education and knowledge. Please do not misunderstand what I am about to say as being anti-intellectual. I am not. But here is the thing, to do service, to be a Pastor, to be a missionary, to do anything the Lord is leading you to do, it is the Holy Spirit's responsibility to train you for that service. He can use school for that, but He doesn't always do so. Peter was a professional fisherman who had maybe completed the basics of education in Galilee of the 1st Century AD. But after the giving of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost.

Acts 4:13-14

"The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that **they were ordinary men with no special training in the Scriptures**. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing right there among them, there was nothing the council could say." (NLT)

Jesus personally promises us that the Holy Spirit will teach us all things. He is the one who teaches us the scriptures and He is the one who helps me put together what it is He wants His people to hear every week. It is not me.

Before we were saved, we were wrecks, at one level or another. If you came to Christ as a child, like my wife, praise the Lord that you had parents who loved you and showed you way to the Father. But not all of us had that privilege.

Paul, who had a double doctorate equivalent, before Jesus, was all about murdering Christians. But after Jesus, he realized who was the one turning the world upside down. Just the everyday believer yielded to the power of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:20-29

"Where does that leave the philosopher, the Torah-teacher, or any of today's thinkers? Hasn't God made this world's wisdom look pretty foolish? For God's wisdom ordained that the world, using its own wisdom,



would not come to know him. Therefore God decided to use the "nonsense" of what we proclaim as his means of saving those who come to trust in it. Precisely because Jews ask for signs and Greeks try to find wisdom, we go on proclaiming a Messiah executed on a stake as a criminal! To Jews this is an obstacle, and to Greeks it is nonsense; but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, this same Messiah is God's power and God's wisdom! For God's "nonsense" is wiser than humanity's "wisdom." And God's "weakness" is stronger than humanity's "strength." Just look at yourselves, brothers—look at those whom God has called! Not many of you are wise by the world's standards, not many wield power or boast noble birth. But God chose what the world considers nonsense in order to shame the wise; God chose what the world considers weak in order to shame the strong; and God chose what the world looks down on as common or regards as nothing in order to bring to nothing what the world considers important; so that no one should boast before God." (CJB)

R.A Torrey, one of the founders of Biola, learned this.

"...when I came to know the Holy Spirit as the Paraclete. When the thought got possession of me that when I stood up to preach, there was Another who stood by my side, that while the audience saw me God saw Him, and that the responsibility was all upon Him, and that He was abundantly able to meet it and care for it all, and that all I had to do was to stand back as far out of sight as possible and let Him do the work. I have no dread of preaching now; preaching is the greatest joy of my life, and sometimes when I stand up to speak and realize that He is there, that all the responsibility is upon Him, such a joy fills my heart that I can scarce restrain myself from shouting and leaping. He is just as ready to help us in all our work; in our Sunday-school classes; in our personal work and in every other line of Christian effort. Many hesitate to speak to others about accepting Christ. They are afraid they will not say the right thing; they fear that they will do more harm than they will good. You certainly will if you do it, but if you will just believe in the Paraclete and trust Him to say it and to say it in His way, you will never do harm but always good. It may seem at the time that you have accomplished nothing, but perhaps years after you will find out you have accomplished much and even if you do not find it out in this world, you will find it out in eternity." (Torrey 1910, 75-76)

God is in the remodeling business. He loves to take wrecks and turn them into beautiful examples of His grace at work. Look at many who have been called to serve as pastors in Calvary Chapels worldwide. Their lives were a real wreck, yet look at how God has restored. Look at the wealth and the value that have come out of these lives. It's a beautiful work of God to see what the world has cast off as hopeless wrecks transformed into glorious vessels of honor. (Smith 2000, Kindle Location 520)

He "will remind you of all I said to you" - A promise to teach us all things followed by a promise to help us remember those things Jesus taught. What holds us back is us, it sure isn't Him.

But talking to others is scary. Yes, yes, it is. Standing up and speaking in public is equally frightening for almost everyone. But when the Lord calls, we really need to surrender to that call. Jesus knew that, so He talks about more the Paraclete will do for us.

John 15:26-27

"When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you are testifying as well, because you have been with Me from the beginning." (NASB 2020)

"He will testify about me" – With the Paraclete alongside and in us, as we read the word, He will point out to us all the places it is about Jesus.

New believers talk about not understanding the word before meeting Christ, but after, suddenly the Spirit is showing them things they never knew was in the word.



It is His job to reveal Jesus to us as we read and study, The operative words there are read and study.

Jesus has already talked about the primacy of our abiding in Him. That includes spending time with Him and hearing what He has to say to us through His word and talking to Him about it as we pray.

We have this promise of being taught all things, why not ask the author, the Holy Spirit what that section of scripture means. He will tell you. Be on the lookout for that as you go about the day after praying that. Write down the before and after so you begin documenting just how He does teach us.

But Ken, what about talking to others? It is scary. Yes, it is. But here we see another promise. Not only will the parakletos be testifying to us about Jesus but look at this.

John 15:26b-27

"He will testify about Me, and you are testifying as well, because you have been with Me from the beginning." (NASB 2020)

He begins to testify through us about Jesus. The results, just like we already have seen form Acts and the incredulity of the religious leadership over unlearned men, knowing more than them.

That brings us right back to this fourth time that Jesus talks about the Paraclete. This is truly important to all of us as His church.

John 16:7-15

"But I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. And He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness, and judgment: regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you." (NASB 2020)

The Paraclete cannot come unless Jesus first takes care of our sin problem on the cross, rises from the dead and then ascends to the Father. He is being sent by the Father in Jesus name to be alongside His disciples just as Jesus was alongside them.

When you step out to serve, there are times you feel like you are hanging out there all alone. You are not alone. Jesus is standing right there next to you and inside of you, the person of the Holy Spirit simply wants you and me to allow Him to be the one doing the ministering through us. The disciples were bummed because they thought it was all about them. It is, and that is why we all need the Helper in everything we do.

Here we have repeated for us several things we have already learned about the Paraclete. Then we learn a few more aspects of His ministry.

"He, when He comes, will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgement" – It is His job not ours. We are not the ones tasked with coming up with a compelling hook to grab folks so they will come to Jesus as we talk to them. That is His responsibility.



We share what it is the Lord has laid on our hearts as we testify of Him. The Holy Spirit is the one guiding those words anyhow. Once we are done, then it is His responsibility to convict. It is not ours.

Remember, "the work of the Spirit is to convict the world's conscience of its sin and to convince humanity to change their minds to receive either God's righteousness or his judgment. Since the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit, the work of conviction is mediated through God's new community. The Spirit of truth will convict the world that sin consists in its unbelief in Jesus, for unbelief is the root of all evil deeds. Secondly, he will convince the world to receive God's gift of righteousness, which became possible because of Jesus' departure to the Father through the cross and Jesus' disciples will see him no more on earth. The Spirit offers God's righteousness (justification) for those who believe in Jesus. Thirdly, the Spirit will convict the world of condemnation, in both present and future experience, if they fail to believe and receive God's righteous status in Jesus. God's verdict will be either to make a sinner righteous or to keep the sinner under judgment. Just like God's righteousness, his condemnation also is assured because the ruler of this world is already judged on the cross. That is, the devil's power is defeated. (Kanagaraj 2013, 160)

This is probably the hardest thing to understand since we have this thing called the flesh that still clings to us from time to time.

We live in a culture that is results driven. In the business world, unless you produce results, then how do you know you have succeeded. In track, you work hard and do all the necessary work during the week and then the results of that are what you exhibit in performance at the track. The coach wanted results.

Our coach, the Holy Spirit, wants faithfulness. Those are the results He is looking for. He is not looking for the number of likes our story produced on Facebook or You Tube. He is not interested in how many are listening to our podcast and He certainly isn't interested in how many came to church. All He wants is my faithfulness to what He has called me to do.

That is all He wants of each of us. He is the one doing the convicting of sin and if that message is rejected, then He is the one convicting of judgement. Why judgment, because the standard of righteousness has been missed unless they respond to the conviction of sin and simply believe that Jesus died on the cross for that sin and then rose from the dead to provide eternal freedom from it and eternal life with Him.

Once we understand that is all His job, then it isn't scary anymore. He is there with you, and you've got this. I will warn you though, once you step out in faith to that next thing the Lord has called you too, you will want to take another step, and then another and so on. Jesus explains the three terms for us.

John 16:9-11

"regarding sin, because they do not believe in Me; and regarding righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you no longer are going to see Me; and regarding judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged." (NASB 2020)

The Holy Spirit is the one who, as you and I share Jesus with others, convicts them of sin. He is the one who will not let that verse slip by. He is the one who will not let your story of what Jesus did for you leave their memory.

We are not called to argue people into the kingdom. We are not all called to be apologists like Josh McDowell or others, they have produced great tools we can make use of as we share, but that is not what we have been called to do at the very beginning, simply share. Based on our faithfulness, He may indeed call you to argue with others on His behalf, but that is not something He calls all to do.



There are many ways in which the Paraclete stands by us and helps us of which we will speak at length when we come to study His work. He stands by us when we pray (Rom. 8:26, 27); when we study the Word (John 14:26; 16:12–14); when we do personal work (Acts 8:29); when we preach or teach (1 Cor. 2:4); when we are tempted (Rom. 8:2); when we leave this world (Acts 7:54–60). Let us get this thought firmly fixed now and for all time that the Holy Spirit is One called to our side to take our part. (Torrey 1910, 76)

As Jesus is sharing this and telling His disciples just how important this all is, He winds up admitting that at present, since the Spirit has not been given yet, some of the things He wants to teach them He simply cannot do.

John 16:12-15

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them at the present time. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you." (NASB 2020)

The Paraclete "will guide you into all truth." His job is to make sure we understand His word and His calling on each of us. He simply discloses what He hears. And yes, He speaks.

Then we see another promise, it is one that is incredible, and it is a primary reason why here at Calvary Chapel, we teach prophecy. "He will disclose to you what is to come."

As believers, we are His friends, we already learned that. That implies a closer relationship than even His prophets enjoyed. And if that is the case then what was true for Amos, is seriously true for us today.

Amos 3:7

"Certainly the Sovereign LORD does nothing without first revealing his plan to his servants the prophets." (NET 2nd ed.)

Then we see this promise here. As the Holy Spirit hears the Father and the Son speak, He speaks to us.

Usually that is through His word. Have I heard the Spirit speak audibly, yes, twice. And both time it was, "No." In one case, I followed, in the other, I did not. He also speaks to us, at times, through dreams and visions. But don't get hung up on that, we have God's revealed word, and He does indeed speak and quide us many times through things we call circumstances.

But the big news here is He will disclose what is to come. I wonder if He looked right at John when He said that.

The work of the Spirit, the Paraclete is to glorify Jesus.

And bang, here it is one more time. Do you want to understand the word? Do you want to know what Jesus says and what it means. That is the job of the Holy Spirit to reveal.

John 16:14-15

"He will glorify Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; this is why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose it to you." (NASB 2020)

Even for us, living in the last days of planet earth, this is all still incredibly meaningful and important for us.



Jesus earlier, gave us the how to, for making sure we have the Paraclete not only in us, but gushing in power from us.

John 15:4-5

"Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. "Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing." (NLT)

That is a decision you and I must make. It is imperative we continue to abide in Christ. That means we confess sin and maintain the relationship. As an act of our will, we remain in Christ.

How do I do that? How do I abide in Christ?

- 1. It isn't about you anymore; it is about Christ. Renounce self and put all your faith and reliance on Him.
- 2. Pray and ask for the Holy Spirit to baptize you and empower you and do that daily or even more frequently as needed.
- 3. Feed on His word daily, (John 15:7).
- 4. Obey His words, do what He commands (John 15:9-10).
- 5. Make prayer a priority (John 14:12-16).
- 6. Keep on keeping on.

Right now, is your opportunity. If you don't know Jesus and the Spirit has been taking to you, to come to Him today.

If you do know Him, but this just sounds all too incredible. To become empowered with the Holy Spirit like you never have before.

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