

Today's Focus – Spiritual Readiness

John 14:15 "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ 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." ²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" ²³ 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. ²⁴ 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.

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. 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. 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. ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe. ³⁰ I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no claim on me, ³¹ 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.

BI: You need the "Helper" for Spiritual Readiness.

Notes:

Today: The Bible teaches us that there is One GOD (Deut. 6:4) and that GOD is a plurality (Gen. 1:26-27) or Father, Son, and Spirit as described by Jesus in the NT (Matt. 28:19). This is the Trinity (or Tr-Unity). GOD is three in person, One in essence (or three-in-oneness). The Father, Son, and Spirit are made of the same subsistence (the same spiritual existence). And thus, each member of the Trinity shares the attributes of GOD (e.g., eternal Creator; see Gen. 1:1, 2; John 1:1-3).

While they are One GOD in essence, each member of the Trinity has a different role in salvation history: (i) GOD the Father is the Head and Sender (see John 14:26); (ii) Jesus is the manifestation of GOD to humanity who added human flesh (John 1:14, 18; Heb. 1:3; & Phil. 2:5-11). Jesus' role was to demonstrate love for the Father and humanity by obediently following the Father's plan of the cross (John 14:31); and (iii) the role of the Spirit is to be our Advocate who exhorts us to "Spiritual Readiness" → to be brave as we learn to love Jesus by obeying His teachings while living life in a world that is actively hostile toward GOD and His people (John 14:16-17; 25-26).

About the Holy Spirit: We will talk a lot about the Holy Spirit in the coming weeks, but today, please look at the following verses and discuss the difference between the Spirit's role in the OT vs. NT:

1) The Old Testament:

- A. What was the Spirit's role in Genesis 1:2?
- B. The Spirit would anoint (temporarily) a prophet, priest or king (example 1 Samuel 10:6-7, 9-12).
- C. GOD made Saul King and then took His Kingdom away and gave it to David (see 1 Samuel 13:13-14; 16:14)
- D. When David sinned, he feared the Spirit would be taken from him as well (see Psalm 51:10-12)

2) The New Testament:

- A. Read John 3:5 – why do we need the Spirit?
- B. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 & 4:30 – is the Spirit's role in your life temporary or permanent according to these verses?
- C. How is this different than the role of the Spirit in the OT?
- D. Read John 14:16-17; 25-26 – think of the term "Advocate" for you to be "brave" → how should this positively affect you as you live the Christian life?