



**The Promise of the Holy Spirit  
Power to Do Life Jesus Style  
John 14:15-31**

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Jesus is having His final briefing with the disciples before going to the cross. He is introducing to them how everything is about to change.

What He has said so far is very different than life under the Law. This is life under grace.

Jesus has given three commands (precepts) so far too. He has used the imperative form that many times in the past five minutes of conversation.



A new commandment to love one another unconditionally. In fact, this love will become so pervasive that the unbelieving world will see it to be a characteristic of a believer.

Another set of precepts:

- Don't freakout. Believe in God and in Me.
- I am preparing a place for you at my Father's house and will come to get you later.
- Salvation will now only be possible through me.
- And then, believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me.

And then there is the amazing news that if we are believers, we will do the same and greater works than Jesus did as long as we are loving Him and following Him. He also promises to answer our prayers that we ask in His name, again, as long as we are loving Him and following Him.

John 14:15

"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments." (NASB 2020)

In order to be blessed and to be a blessing, we must keep what He is asking us to keep, His commandments. The word in the Greek is entole, "an injunction; a precept, commandment, law...an order, direction...an edict...a direction...a commission...a charge of matters to be proclaimed or received." (Mounce 2006, 1145) In other words, a Must Do List.

However, you want to put it, there are certain non-negotiables that Jesus is giving us that should be characteristic of how we live this new life in Him. Those who are paying attention to them are the ones who will see the blessings of answered prayer and works of the Lord taking place in their life.

My question though, which is not asked, Jesus answers. He answers it without it being asked. It is this, "how can I possibly do that while still living here on planet Earth in this body?"

Jesus would look at us as we ask it, smile and then say 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)

Jesus is changing roles; He is moving to becoming the Great Mediator for us.

1 Timothy 2:5–6

"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, a testimony at the proper time." (CSB)

Jesus is telling His disciples that in order for them to be able to live like He has been outlining for them in the past few minutes, they will need help. Big time help since He has already hinted, He is going back to the Father to prepare a place. Someplace they will not be going to immediately. The unasked question, "how should we then live?" This is the why, to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Or to define another reason why, per Francis Schaeffer; "as Christians we are not only to know the right worldview, the world-view that tells us the truth of what is, but consciously to act upon that world-view so as to influence society in all its parts and facets across the whole spectrum of life, as much as we can to the extent of our individual and collective ability." (Schaeffer 1982, 254) This is only possible through the power of the Holy Spirit. As we operate in His power, we become world changers.



The culture has not changed much since Jesus walked the planet. The world system still wants to mold us into its own unique shape so that we conform to the world. The world system wants us to be flexible enough in what we believe that we are comfortable with the teaching of error in the church.

As believers, we are in direct opposition to this, and Jesus is providing His disciples and us, with the tools to be able to stand against the world. Indeed, we will be empowered to do the same work He did which includes stating clearly what the truth is and then being willing to stand for that uncompromised truth.

We must have the same power He had to do this; we must have the Holy Spirit empowering us in all we do.

We have learned much in the past few years due to the pandemic. We now know how close we are to living under tyranny, even in this nation.

In some places in this nation, it became illegal to gather together and worship to Lord. It became illegal to gather together and pray. In other words, our liberal western governments which tolerated us as believers in the past, ceased tolerating us and began to dictate to us how we should think, work, eat, listen, believe and worship.

Welcome to living as a Christian under the Roman Empire in the first century AD.

Some of the ideas Francis Schaeffer stated more than two decades ago, sound rather prophetic. We need power to live and power to negotiate through this new world without finding ourselves negotiating with the world and compromising.

If we as Christians do not speak out as authoritarian governments grow from within or come from outside, eventually we or our children will be the enemy of society and the state. No truly authoritarian government can tolerate those who have a real absolute by which to judge its arbitrary absolutes and who speak out and act upon that absolute. This was the issue with the early church in regard to the Roman Empire, and though the specific issue will in all probability take a different form than Caesar-worship, the basic issue of having an absolute by which to judge the state and society will be the same. (Schaeffer 1982, 254-255)

We did not have formal Caesar Worship, but we were still told the state, in some locations, could dictate how we do life. Believers were told to sacrifice their faith in Christ, on the altar of the state. Thankfully, that was not the case here in Florida, but it was elsewhere.

Jesus tells His disciples He will give them another Helper, and this Helper is being promised to be with them forever. The Greek He uses here is significant when He says, "another helper." The phrase is ἄλλον παράκλητον (allon parakleton).

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 parakletos. The Helper is a person, not an it. He is referring to Holy Spirit as the parakletos as well as Himself.



“Jesus Himself is regarded as such during His earthly ministry (John 14:16). The only description, however, is that of the ἄλλος παράκλητος who after the departure of Jesus will continue His work and remain for ever with and in the disciples (John 14:16f., 26; 16:7, 13f.). This is the Spirit (πνεῦμα). Sent by God or Jesus to the disciples (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)—not to the world, which has no organ for Him (John 14:17)—He teaches with all-embracing authority and yet with strict adherence to Jesus and His message, maintaining, expanding and completing the work of Jesus, leading the disciples into all truth (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13f.). His witness to Jesus (John 15:26), however, is also an accusation of the world before God’s judgment seat: He convicts the world in respect of sin, righteousness and judgment. That is, He shows that sin is on the side of the world, right and triumph on that of Jesus (John 16:8–11).” (Behm 1964-, 813)

Put very simply, Jesus is telling His disciples that He is sending His Spirit to them. Unlike under the law, where the presence of the Holy Spirit was a temporary thing (Psalm 51:11), now, the Holy Spirit will be with them forever.

This is a promise for us today as well. When we give our life to Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit immediately comes inside to be with us, and He will never leave us (Hebrews 13:5) and He will be with us forever (John 14:16).

The passage clearly indicates that the Holy Spirit is not merely a power but a person, just like the Father and the Son. He is another Helper, not a different Helper. (Hendriksen and Kistemaker 1953-2001, 275)

This means His ministry in and through us is the same as the ministry of Jesus. He is the one who empowers us to speak out against this world system and to stand for the Lord.

He witnesses about and glorifies Jesus (15:26; 16:14). The Paraclete also has an advocacy role in relation to the disciples, aiding the disciples in their witness, since his witness takes place through theirs (15:26–7). (Lincoln 2005, 394)

Since He is another just like Jesus, that means as we are empowered and filled with the Holy Spirit, we are all about continuing the mission of Jesus. But why do our unsaved friends seem to not understand us? Why does the culture not get it about who we serve?

John 14:17

“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)

The world, the kosmos meaning the world system that is in open rebellion against God, doesn’t see it. The world system is into stuff, not the spiritual. As believers, we are not into stuff, but into what the Spirit has for us.

Profoundly materialistic, the world is suspicious of what it cannot see; but seeing in itself guarantees nothing, as the world’s response to Jesus demonstrates. The truth is that the world does not know the Spirit of truth, and cannot accept him (cf. 1 Cor. 2:14), and if it could it would cease being the ‘world’. (Carson 1991, 500)

Did you see the promise here though, He is the Spirit of truth, we know Him because He is in us, never ever to leave. Here is what this means. Prophecy being fulfilled.



Joel 2:28–29

“It will come about after this That I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and your daughters will prophesy, Your old men will have dreams, Your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.” (NASB 2020)

This is a shocking statement. The promise meant that it did not matter who you were. Ethnic groups would not matter. Racial groups would not matter. National groups would not matter. Age would not matter. Status would not matter. All would receive the Holy Spirit.

And Jesus is telling us that is what is about to take place.

Earlier in His ministry, Jesus made a statement about the coming of the Holy Spirit while teaching in the Temple. This was during the celebration of the Feast of Booths.

John 7:37–38

“Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ”” (NASB 2020)

He is telling us here in John 14, that is now becoming possible.

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)

There is a third word we need to be aware of regarding the Holy Spirit as well, we see it in Luke 24:49 when Jesus is telling His disciples that they need to stay in Jerusalem until the promise of the Father comes upon them.

Luke 24:49

“And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father **upon you**. But stay in the city until you are **clothed with power from on high**.” (ESV)

If you are a believer, you have a relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Bible uses three words to discuss this relationship.

With (para)

In (en)

Upon (epi)

### With Us

Before we come to know Jesus, the Holy Spirit is **with us** telling us about Jesus. (Genesis 24, John 16:8)

- He has been involved with us from the **beginning of time** (Ephesians 1:3-6.)
- He is the one who whispers in our ear that we are sinners in need of salvation (John 16:8.)
- He is the one who invites us to come to Jesus (Revelation 22:17.)
- He is a gentleman; He will give us our space if we want it.
- He simply communicates to us the salvation the Father has provided and which the Son achieved.
- The decision is **ours** (Genesis 1:26-28, John 7:17, Romans 6:13, Romans 10:8-13.)



If we reject the Holy Spirit's word to us, He will leave us alone for now (Exodus 8:32, 9:7,34, Acts 26:28-32.)

- At a point in time, that **rejection** may become permanent (Exodus 10:20, Luke 23:8-9) but I have seen even the hardest hearts melt.
- Ultimately though, if we continue to reject Him, the Holy Spirit will give us what we want, an eternity without Christ (John 3:18.)

If we decide to accept what it is the Holy Spirit is telling us, then based on that decision, a series of things happen very fast, and a relationship begins (Romans 10:9.)

At this point, the relationship changes, now the Holy Spirit is in us.

### In Us

At the moment of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes **into us**.

- He is the one involved in giving us new birth when we respond to His call. (John 3:5 – 8.)
- He enters each one of us **forever** (John 14:16) at the moment of salvation (Romans 8:9.)
- He places us into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13.)
- He gives us **new life** (Ephesians 2:1.)
- The Holy Spirit personally guarantees that we will ultimately be saved (Ephesians 1:14.)
- He is actively assuring us of that fact (Romans 8:16.)
- Living in us He opens God's word so we can understand it (Ephesians 1:17-18, John 14:26) and He shows us the truth (John 16:13.)
- He promises to **never** leave us, **ever**. (Hebrews 13:5, Proverbs 18:24.)
- We each become **sacred space** with the Holy Spirit in us.

John 14:12

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and **greater works** than these he will do; because I go to the Father.” (NASB95)

And there is that verse again that we covered last time.

But do really believe this? I mean, how is this even possible?

Simple, Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit (John 3:34, Luke 4:1) and here in John He is now promising the same power to His disciples and to us. Yes, it is possible for us to be empowered that way. He just said so.

It is all possible because of John 14:16-18. But there is also one more aspect of relationship with the Holy Spirit that Jesus told His disciples about. He will continue His teaching after the resurrection when He tells them, just prior to the ascension to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit came upon them in power.

By the way, the Spirit was already in them, He will make sure of that Sunday evening when He blows their mind and comes into the room, post resurrection.

John 20:22

“And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (NASB 2020)



They are believers and as promised they now have the Holy Spirit in them. But notice this, Jesus does not immediately send them out to conquer the world, that is coming about 40 days or so in the future on Pentecost.

Acts 1:4–5

“Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to **wait for what the Father had promised**, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.”” (NASB 2020)

Every believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, that is the guarantee (Philippians 1:6,) if we know Jesus, the Holy Spirit is now with us forever (John 14:16).

Every believer has been, at the moment of salvation, placed into (baptized into) (1 Corinthians 12:13) the body of Christ.

In Acts 1:8, we see “Christ then strictly charged His disciples not to presume to undertake the work to which He had called them until they had received as the necessary and all-essential preparation for that work, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.” (Torrey 1895, 26)

We are not to serve in the power of the flesh, but in and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Not every believer has been Baptized with the Holy Spirit. Some are when they are saved (Acts 10:44-48,) but not all. For many today, the empowering is not there, not at all.

We are talking about something that not all are aware of (Acts 19:2.)

Some know they should but are not obedient in taking the step (Ephesians 5:18.)

Thanks to the world of churchianity, some think they will lose control if they obtain this and go weird, but the Bible says otherwise.

Galatians 5:22–23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.” (NASB 2020)

This brings us to the third aspect of our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the **Holy Spirit has come upon you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (ESV)

### Upon Us

This goes by multiple terms in the scriptures.

- **baptized with** the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:5
- filled with the Holy Spirit – Acts 2:4
- clothed with power from on high – Luke 24:49
- Holy Spirit fell upon all those – Acts 10:44

These terms all speak to the **supernatural empowering** of the Holy Spirit for service. Jesus said that with this power, His disciples will be witnesses everywhere they go.



This supernatural power changes everything. We are going to be witnesses and it will flow naturally from us.

This does not turn everyone into Billy Graham, unless you have the gift of evangelism. But it does mean you now have power in your life to live Jesus style.

### **Being a Witness Means**

As we do life empowered by, filled with, baptized with, gushing with the Holy Spirit, we simply and organically reflect Christ in all we do. It will just flow **naturally** like gushing rivers of living water. Just like Jesus said.

Philippians 4:7

“And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (NASB95)

In a world that is upside down and crazy, you live empowered by the Holy Spirit reflecting His peace. People will be asking you questions. The reaction of some, watching you serve in power, will be in awe as you do greater works than Jesus. The world system will not be pleased.

Acts 17:6

“And when they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some of the brothers before the city authorities, shouting, “These men who **have turned the world upside down** have come here also,” (ESV)

If you have appropriated this power, you know it.(Acts 19:2, Acts 9:17)

It is **not a one-time thing**. In the life of Peter, the Spirit fills or comes upon him multiple times. (Acts 2:4, 4:8, 4:31)

Why? We all have a leaking problem.

We all leak spiritually.

The Bible describes each of us having the capability to cause pain to the Holy Spirit by **grieving Him** (Ephesians 4:30.) We can also **quench** what it is He is doing (Galatians 3:3.)

How do we plug the leak?

1 John 1:9

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (ESV)

How do we appropriate this power? Simple. Just ask for it.

The Baptism with the Holy Ghost is a definite experience, subsequent to salvation, whereby the Third Person of the Godhead comes upon the believer to anoint and energize him for special service. This experience is designated, in the New Testament, as the Spirit “falling upon,” “coming upon,” or being “poured out upon” the yielded believer in a sudden and supernatural manner. (Duffield and Van Cleave 1983, 307)

Again, to receive the baptism or enabling of the Spirit, all we have to do is ask.





Last time we discussed prayer that God answers, this is one of those prayers. It is always according to His will. He wants us to have this gift.

Luke 11:13.

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (ESV)

Remember, this is God’s idea. He wants us to live in His power.

This is why He has included this as part of a conversation that is all about His disciples and us having the power to continue to move forward with His mission. This is what the Great Commission is all about.

Let’s take one more look at the context here.

John 14:12–17

“Truly, truly I say to you, the one who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I am going to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, this I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it. If you love Me, you will keep My commandments. 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)

### **Objections from the Enemy**

Satan is already spreading a few lies to you about this.

- I am so unworthy of what it is God wants to do in and through me. Lie
- I need to clean up my life first. Lie
- It means I will go all weird. Lie
- I’ve heard what the experience is like, and it isn’t for me. Lie

We simply ask Him to fill, enable, empower us and by faith trust we have received. Trust me, you will not go and do weird stuff when He fills you. Once again, the fruit of the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22–23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” (NET 2nd ed.)

There it is, self-control.

Can I get this if someone prays for me? Yes. Can I get this if I simply ask for it? Yes. Will I do weird things if I do ask for this? No, unless you already do weird things.

For the disciples, this is good news. They are about to think they have been abandoned, but that is not the case, not at all.

John 14:18–20

“I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. After a little while, the world no longer is going to see Me, but you are going to see Me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I in you.” (NASB 2020)



Jesus is talking about two things, as a result of His pending crucifixion, once He goes into the tomb, the world will indeed not see Him. After the resurrection, those who see Him are those who know Him and love Him.

On that day, resurrection day. They will know beyond any doubt that He is in the Father and all He has talked about, is true.

He cannot ask the Father (as he has promised) for 'another Counsellor' (v. 16) unless he rises from the dead—in short, unless he comes to his disciples again after his impending 'departure' in death. (Carson 1991, 502)

The promise of the Holy Spirit is predicated on His resurrection. That is why they do not receive the Spirit until after the resurrection and He breathes on them. When He does return to them, then they will get it.

There you have it, how to be empowered, thanks to Jesus, and once we are, we are then ready to change the world.

The power of living in the Spirit will change you. You will want more and more of this living water. The source has no bottom to it. The power of the Spirit will change you. It will change your marriage, your family, your business, your relationships, and your service for our Lord Jesus Christ. You will be witnesses organically, naturally as the Holy Spirit changes every aspect of your life.

Get used to different.

His appointment book is very different from ours.

What does it feel like to take on a world that is wrong side up? Amazing is the word. Living life smack dab in the middle of God's will fully empowered by the Holy Spirit and equipped to do anything through His spirit.

So, what is stopping you? Maybe your world, your kids, your marriage, your relationships, your business, your school are all wrong side up? This is the beginning, the starting point to flip them. Find out what living like a 1st Century Christian experientially was really like.

This is simply basic to us living in the last days. Let's pray.



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