

"The Father will give you another Helper."

*John 14:12-17*

*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. 13*

*"Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 "If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.*

*15 "If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.*

*16 " [And] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [parakletos], that He may be with you forever; 17 that 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 abides with you and will be in you.*

We have now completed our work for the first three amazing statements that Jesus makes in this passage.

In John 14:12-17, Jesus introduces four new truths to the disciples. Thereafter, Jesus will come back to these truths and develop them further. /What appears as a new bud here will grow to full flower.\

For instance, /in verses 13-14, Jesus proclaims that prayer in His name will be granted.\ He will return to this several times: in John 15: 7, 16; and John 16:23-27.

*John 15:7*

*7 "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.*

/Here Jesus adds a new thing: abiding – namely abiding in Him (His love) and His words abiding in us.\

*John 15:16*

*16 "You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.*

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/Here Jesus connects answered prayer to fruit.\

*John 16:23-27*

*23 "In that day you will not question Me about anything. Truly, truly, I say to you, if you ask the Father for anything in My name, He will give it to you. 24 "Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full.*

*25 "These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; an hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but will tell you plainly of the Father. 26 "In that day you will ask in My name, and I do not say to you that I will request of the Father on your behalf; 27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father.*

/A new day will soon arrive.\ Then the Father will give you what you ask for in Jesus' name so that your joy would be made full.

/Answered prayer is finally revealed to be rooted and grounded in the love of the Father.\

Well, we will see this same progression with the fourth and final new revelation:  
/the gift of the indwelling Spirit.\

Let's now read verses 16 and 17 of our passage in John 14.

*John 14:16 " [And] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [parakletos], that He may be with you forever; 17 that 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 abides with you and will be in you.*

/Let's examine the phrase "another Helper".\

Recall the context: Jesus is with His disciples in the upper room on the night before He is to die on the cross. /He's told them that He is going to leave them soon, and and they won't be able to come to where He is going.\

They became upset at the news. Their hearts are full of sorrow.  
/So in chapter 14 John records how Jesus set about trying to comfort them.\

So when He says “another Helper”, /Jesus is referring to the fact that He has been their Helper here on earth. \ Since He is leaving them to go to His Father in heaven, He will ask the Father and the Father will send another Helper to be with them, and, indeed, in them.

So that’s the situation we have here.

/But what does He mean by “Helper”? \

Well of course John didn’t write in English. He wrote in Greek. And the fact is that /for this particular Greek word, the translators have struggled to come up with the equivalent word in English.\

They have used “helper”. “comforter”. “counselor”. “advocate”. And so on.

/These aren’t wrong, but they are inadequate.\

You see, the Greek word can mean all of these things and more.

/The Greek word here is *parakleton*. It's the accusative of the noun *parakletos*.\

/The general meaning is “one who is called in to appear on someone else’s behalf”.\

/But the specific meaning depends on the reason why the person is called in.\

Hence the difficulty in translating.

Now we learn in verse 17 that the *parakletos* in question is the Holy Spirit.

/And the fact is that the Holy Spirit meets all kinds of needs for the believers in the church!\

So I studied each verse in the New Testament that mentions the Holy Spirit. I kept a list of the things that the Spirit provides believers. That list approached 40 !

SO of course the translators can't boil all the ministries of the Spirit down to one word!

Now, this doesn't mean that the Spirit is unfocused and pulled in all kinds of directions.

/He has one mission! And that mission is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ through the church which is His body.\

So He provides what is needed by individual believers or the group as a whole in order for them to accomplish the mission that the Lord has given them.

/His provision varies according to the specific need at hand.\ It could be comfort, or discernment, or teaching, or counsel, or guidance, or strength, or encouragement – just to name a few.

So let's turn to the scriptures now to get a better understanding.

We will begin with the things that Jesus taught the disciples about the Holy Spirit in the upper room.

Look again at our passage:

*John 14:16 " [And] I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [parakletos], that He may be with you forever; 17 that 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 abides with you and will be in you.*

/What needs does the Parakletos, the Holy Spirit, meet in these two verses?\

/First, He will be with the disciples forever. What a comfort! \

/Second, He is referred to by Jesus as the Spirit of truth. The Parakletos is the source of truth. Jesus had served the disciples in this manner (John 14:6), but now He is about to depart for heaven, so now the Holy Spirit will do so.\

/Third, while the world does not know this Parakletos, the disciples do because He is already abiding with them.\



/Fourth, He will soon be in them! He will permanently indwell each and every believer.\

This was a radically new concept for the disciples, schooled as they were in Old Testament. When the Spirit appeared in the Old Testament, He came upon certain individuals only – not every believer. And He did so temporarily, not permanently.

*John 14:25-26*

*25 "These things I have spoken to you while abiding 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 said to you.*

/When Jesus lived with the disciples on earth for those 3 ½ years, He taught them many things. \

/But He also made it clear that there were things that they were not ready to receive.\

There were many things that Jesus said that they did not understand.

/But when the Holy Spirit comes, He will teach the disciples ALL THINGS.\

Not only that, but He will bring to their remembrance all the things that Jesus said to them.

Among other things, this ministry of the Holy Spirit would enable the apostles to write much of the New Testament – all of it, if you include the other writers who in turn were inspired by the Holy Spirit for the same purpose.

/So the Parakletos will also function as their teacher and reminder.\

*John 15:26-27*

*26 "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, 27 and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.*

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/Once again, the Parakletos is called the Spirit of truth. Here He also serves as a witness who testifies about Jesus.\

/Not only that, but He will mentor and guide the disciples to do the same thing.  
\That will bring its own challenges and needs.

/Then the Holy Spirit will embolden them, and give them the words to say.\

*Mark 13:9-11*

*9 "But be on your guard; for they will deliver you to the courts, and you will be flogged in the synagogues, and you will stand before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them. 10 "The gospel must first be preached to all the nations. 11 "When they arrest you and hand you over, do not worry beforehand about what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but it is the Holy Spirit.*

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/So again we see that the Holy Spirit, the Parakletos, stands ready to provide whatever is needed in order for believers to fulfill the mission that the Lord has given them.\

*John 16:7-15*

*7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. 8 "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; 9 concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; 11 and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged.*

*12 "I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.*

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This is where we will pick things up next week.

We will revisit the specific mission that the Lord gave the disciples in John 14:12-15, and examine scriptures, including those in the book of Acts and the epistles, which identify the things the Spirit provides to meet the needs of the church.