

The Spirit of truth

John 14:16-17

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.

Last Sunday, we examined the meaning of that expression “another Helper”.

When Jesus 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”?

/The Greek word here is the noun *parakletos*.\ It has a general meaning and specific meanings.

/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.\

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

And the Holy Spirit meets all kinds of needs for the believers in the church!

Now, this doesn’t mean that the Spirit is unfocused.

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

He provides what is needed by the body and its members so that they are able 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 teaching, or counsel, guidance, strength, or encouragement – just to name a few.

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

Let's see what 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.

Jesus identifies the parakletos as the Holy Spirit.
/And He calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of **truth**.\

And in fact, Jesus will call Him the Spirit of truth several other times during His teaching in chapters 14-16. This is significant.

Why the Spirit of truth? After all, the Spirit has many names in the New Testament: The Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of life, and so on.

But here Jesus emphasizes “truth”.

Jesus is about to go to heaven, and leave them on earth. /These men will go on to preach the gospel and establish churches. It will all be based on the truth.\

/Our salvation begins with truth, with facts. The gospel of our salvation is the message of truth.\

Eph 1:13-14

13 In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

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/Our spiritual life is based on the truth. \

Eph 4:14-15

As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; 15 but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,

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As Jesus said in John 8:31-32,

John 8:31-32

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

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/Real worship is centered on the truth.\

John 4:24

24 "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

/And the church is called the pillar and support of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).\

So first and foremost, their parakletos, the Holy Spirit, will teach them the truth. /He will be their source of all the truth they will need to carry out their mission. \

As John put it in his letter 1 John,

1 John 5:6: It is the Spirit who testifies, because the Spirit is the 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.

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 mentioned there were things they were not ready to receive, John 16:12.\ *"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

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

John 14:7-9

7 "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

8 Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Clearly they needed to learn a lot more truth, and with Jesus about to depart, they needed another teacher and guide.

/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. He will function as their teacher and reminder.

/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 like Paul and Luke who in turn were inspired by the Holy Spirit for the same purpose.\

A Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:

1 Cor 2:12-13

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.

/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.

/So again we see that the Holy Spirit, the Parakletos, stands ready to provide their primary need if they were going to fulfill the mission that the Lord has given them.\

Now, not only does the Spirit teach the truth to the saints; He also has a ministry to the unbelieving world. /He speaks the truth to the unbelieving world.\

John 16:7-11

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.

/The Holy Spirit does not indwell the unbelievers who make up the world. They cannot receive Him. Yet God is not willing that anyone should perish.\

1 Tim 2:3-4

3 This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

/So Jesus directs the Holy Spirit to convince the unbeliever that he needs a Savior. \

Three facts make up this convicting ministry of the Spirit: sin, righteousness, and judgment. We will study these three things in detail when we get to chapter 16.

There is one more passage where Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Spirit of truth. It is found in chapter 16, verses 12-15.

John 16:12-15

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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/Here we see that the teaching ministry of the Spirit begins and ends with the Lord Jesus Christ: what He taught, what He has done, and who He is. \

The Holy Spirit disclosed things which were mysteries before Christ went to the Father. Including:

/The meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The deity of Christ.

The mystery of Christ and His church.

The baptism by the Spirit, placing each believer in permanent union with Christ.

The bodily return of Christ, first for His church.\

And so many more.

/And verse 14 gives the overriding purpose of the ministries of the Holy Spirit to the church: to glorify Christ Jesus.\

Phil 3:3

3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,