

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Transcript

The Coming of the Spirit John 14:16-20

Jesus at the end of **John 13** had communicated very clearly to His disciples that He was leaving them and though they would seek Him, they would not be able to find Him or come to Him. This revelation by Christ to His disciples devastated them. But then in **John 14**, what did Jesus go on to explain to them? He went on to explain to them that though He was leaving them He was leaving them in order to prepare a place for them in His Father's house. And after He had done that He told them that He would return and take them back with Him.

But this raises a question. If Jesus was going to leave His disciples and would only return for them later, then what would Christ's disciples be doing while they waited for Him? Jesus in **John 14:12** told them that while they waited they would be doing the works that He had done and even greater works.

And what would make this possible? Jesus goes on to say that praying in His name according to **John 14:13** would make it possible. We can deduce this because the promise of greater works in **verse 12** is linked with the promise of answered prayer when praying in His name in **verse 13**.

And what does it mean to pray in His name? Praying in His name means that people who are seeking to obey Him will be seeking to pray as Jesus Himself would pray if He were in the same situation as themselves.

Would Christ's disciples have found it easy at that particular time to pray as Jesus had just commanded them to pray? In other words, would the disciples have found it easy at that particular time to pray as Jesus Himself would pray if He were in their very same situation? Absolutely not! They would have been clueless. They for the most of time had no insight at all about how Jesus might pray in a given situation.

Therefore in light of this, it is very obvious that these disciples in **John 14** needed help. In fact, if they were going to be able to pray in Christ's name and be a full participant in the greater works that He had promised, they would need a whole lot of help. This brings us to the next the next passage in the Gospel of John that we will be examining this morning.

Let me read for you the verses in **John 14:16-20**. **"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. (18) I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. (19) After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me; because I live, you shall live also. (20) In that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you."**

Yes, the disciples of Christ were going to be left behind for at least a while but they would not be left alone. Another helper would be sent to them who would be able to disclose to them all the things that they needed to know in order to pray in Jesus name and to be a full participant in the great harvest of souls that was about to take place in the church age.

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So, Jesus wanted them to know certain things about this helper that would open the door to all of this earthly blessedness while they waited for Him to return and take them with Him back to the place that He had prepared for them in glory. So, what did Jesus want His disciples to know about this helper?

First of all, Christ wanted His disciples to know that the helper that was going to be sent to them was going to be sent to them by His Father (John 14:16). Let us look at **John 14:16**. And what does it say? "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper.**" This is what it says.

Jesus is leaving His disciples but His disciples will not be left alone. They will not be left alone because Christ will ask His Father to send another helper.

The word "helper" (PARAKLETOS) literally means, "called to the side of." Jesus had lived alongside of His disciples throughout His public ministry. He had been there for them in each and every situation that they had faced. He was there for them in the good times and in the bad times. He was always there for them, extending to them not necessarily what they wanted but certainly what they needed. And Jesus is now assuring them that even though He would not be there for them physically in the future as He had been there for them in the past, another helper was going to be supplied for them by His Father who would be able not only to encourage them, to strengthen them, to bolster them, to direct them, but most importantly to teach them so that they would know the mind and will of Christ. But who would this other helper be?

The other helper who would come alongside of Christ's disciples after His departure was the Holy Spirit (John 14:26, 15:26, 16:7). How do we know this? We know this because later in the chapter this helper is clearly identified as the Holy Spirit.

Let me read for you **John 14:26**. What does it say? "**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.**"

Wow! What a great situation for these disciples. After Christ's departure they would not only have Jesus in the heavenly sphere continually making intercession for them, from His seated position at the right hand of the throne of God according to **Hebrews 7:25**, but they would also have the Holy Spirit right alongside of them, the third person of the Godhead, seeking to encourage them, strengthen them, uplift them, support them, direct them but more importantly teach them in each and every situation that they would ever face whether or not that situation was good or bad. Now that is a lot of support! But how long would the Holy Spirit stay with them?

This leads us to the second thing that Christ wanted His disciples to know. Not only did He want them to know that His Father was going to send them another helper, but Christ also wanted His disciples to know that the helper that was going to be sent to them would be with them forever.

Let us once again read **John 14:16** but this time we will read the entire verse. "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever.**" How long would this helper that the Father would send stay with them? Forever!

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Was this important for His disciples to know? Absolutely! Christ, whom they had depended upon, was about to leave them. So, would this other helper stay with them? Yes! And how long would He stay with them? Forever! But this was not all that He wanted His disciples to know about this helper.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that this helper who was going to be sent to them and who would be with them forever was the source of all spiritual understanding (John 14:17).

Let me once again read **John 14:16** but this time we will add the first part of **John 14:17**. "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth.**" So, how does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit here? He is described as the Spirit of truth.

The Holy Spirit is the master teacher. In fact, apart from the work of the Holy Spirit no one would be able to understand and personally incorporate any spiritual truth. This is made abundantly clear as we continue to read.

Let us once again look at the text, beginning to read at **verse 16**. "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him.**" Why can't the world receive the Spirit of truth? They cannot receive Him because they do not see Him or know Him. In other words, they have absolutely no relationship with Him.

But this was not true of Christ's disciples. They already had a relationship with the Spirit of truth. Let us go back to our text and continue to read beginning with **verse 16**. "**And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him.**" Though this helper had not yet come to His disciples in the way that He was about to come to His disciples, this still did not mean that they did not already know Him. They did know Him.

But how did they know Him? They had come to know Him by a sovereign act of God's grace when the Lord through the Spirit of truth made it possible for them to see Jesus as the Christ the Son of the living God, or in other words, when the Spirit of truth opened up their blinded minds according to **2 Corinthians 4:4**.

So, did the world know the Spirit of truth? No! But did His disciples? Yes. Yes they did know Him. In fact, if they did not know Him, they never would have come to see Jesus as the Christ the Son of the living God. So the simple reason that the Spirit of truth is the source of all spiritual understanding.

But even though they knew the Spirit of truth already in a certain sense they were about ready to get to know Him a whole lot better. This leads us to another thing Jesus wanted them to know. And what was that?

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Jesus wanted them to know that this helper would one day indwell them (John 14:17). Let us once again return back to the text and what does it say? **"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another helper, that He may be with you forever; (17) that is the Spirit of truth, who the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you."**

What a bonanza for these disciples. If they through the Spirit of truth had come to know Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God when He simply from time to time was coming upon them, then how much more could they understand about Christ and what Christ would have them to do if they were actually indwelt by Spirit of truth? And of course the answer would be that their understanding and appreciation of Christ and His work would increase exponentially. In fact, their understanding and appreciation of Christ and His work could potentially increase to such a level that they would be able to pray just as Jesus Himself would pray in any given situation, or in other words, their understanding and appreciation of Christ and His work could potentially increase to such a level that they would be able to pray in Jesus name.

And were there any limits to what they could understand about Christ and His work and will after the Spirit of truth indwelt them? This question leads us to another thing that Jesus wanted them to know.

Jesus wanted His disciples to know that when this helper indwelt them and filled them, they through this helper would experience the living, resurrected Christ (John 14:18-20). Would there be any limits to what they could know and understand in respect to Christ and His work after being indwelt by the Holy Spirit? No! There would not be any limits, because if the Holy Spirit indwelt them, then it was also true that Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit indwelt them.

Let us begin by looking at the first part of **John 14:18**. What did Jesus say to them? This is what He said, **"I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."** Who? Jesus! So, what did He mean when He said that He would come to them?

When Christ told His disciples that He would come to them, He was not talking about His resurrection or His second coming. I suppose we could read this into this text if we wanted to but based on everything that Christ had just been sharing with His disciples this would, I believe, certainly be a mistake.

Based on John 14:16-17, when Christ told His disciples that He would come to them, He was speaking of coming to them in the person of the Holy Spirit who would indwell them (John 14:18). This is what He meant and we find this truth supported in the New Testament.

What did Paul say in **Galatians 2:20**? This is what He said, **"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me."** So, let me ask you, based on what Christ told His disciples in John 14:18 and based on what we read in **Galatians 2:20**, was Christ intending to come to His disciples in the person of the Holy Spirit? And the answer I believe has to be a resounding yes!

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And not only was He promising His disciples that He would come to them in the person of the indwelling Holy Spirit but there is even more according to **John 14:19**.

Let us continue to read. "**After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me.**" So, what is Jesus telling them? He was telling them that after the Holy Spirit indwelt them they would be able to behold Him. How? In light of the context, when Christ told His disciples that they would behold Him, He meant that they would behold Him not with their physical eyes but with the eyes of faith. This truth is also supported in other New Testament passages.

Listen to what Paul said in **2 Corinthians 4:11**. **For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.**" Whose life was being manifested? Christ's life. And how was Christ's life being manifested? His life was manifested through the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Let me ask this question. Have you received as Christ promised the Spirit of truth? If you have then what would you expect to happen as Christ intercedes for us from His seated position at the right hand of the throne of God? I believe that we should expect that the Spirit of truth would be banging away on us, molding us and shaping us into the very image of Christ. And what will be the result of this molding and shaping process?

If we do not through sin grieve or quench the Spirit of truth who is working in us, then we will with the eyes of faith be able to see our resurrected Lord living in us and through us. And what will be the benefit of this?

As believers are able with the eyes of faith to see the resurrected living Lord living in and through them, they can be assured that they will live also.

Let me read for you **John 14:19**. "**After a little while the world will behold Me no more; but you will behold Me;** [How will they behold Him? They will behold with the eyes of faith as they see the Spirit molding and shaping them into the very image of Christ and what should they conclude by this in respect to themselves?] **because I live you shall live also.**"

They will be able to assure themselves that they will live also because they will know that Christ truly is the Son of God and that He is in them and they are in Him (John 14:20).

Isn't this what **John 14:20** tells us? "**In that day** [What day? In the day when you through the ministry of the indwelling Spirit see Jesus living in and through you] **you shall know** [What?] **that I am in the Father, and you in Me, and I in you.**"

Can the disciples of Christ pray in the name of the Lord Jesus? Absolutely they can pray in that way. And as they choose to pray in that way they will see the living resurrected Lord in their lives and be able to assure themselves that they will live also.

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May God give us the grace to live our lives in such a way that we know that Christ is not only alive but that we are alive in Him as we patiently await our resurrection.