

1. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

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Sub-title: The Holy Spirit - our personal Helper

- Today we are beginning a new series of messages about:
 - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit
- As believers in Christ, we should get to know, not only Jesus as our personal Lord & Saviour, but also the Holy Spirit as our personal Helper
- Every effort on our part in developing a strong relationship with the Holy Spirit will lead to personal gain
- Conversely, any neglect on our part in developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit will be our personal loss
- Living in these last days has become more and more challenging
- The need for the Holy Spirit and His help in our lives is bigger than ever

1. Jesus announced the coming of the Holy Spirit

- When Jesus neared the end of his physical life on earth, He began to speak to His disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit
- He was about to be taken from them & be crucified on the cross
- He spoke to them about their need of “another Helper”
- Up to that point in time, Jesus had been their Helper
- But soon, He would leave them and they would need “another Helper”

John 14:12,16-17 (NKJV) *Most assuredly, 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 My Father ... 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and **will be in you.***

- These words are part of the “Upper Room Discourse” where Jesus taught the twelve apostles during the Last Supper
- Vs. 12 ... I am going to my Father ...
(meaning: die on the cross, then rise from the dead & ascend to heaven)
- Vs. 16 I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper ...
 - Another – Gr. allos – another of the same kind
 - Helper – Gr. parakletos - one who draws alongside to help

- ... that He may abide with you forever ...
 - Jesus was with them for about three and a half years
 - The Holy Spirit would be with them forever
- ... the Spirit of truth - this is another name / description of the Holy Spirit
- ... He will be in you ...
- The main differences between Jesus as their Helper & the Holy Spirit as their Helper:
 - Jesus was with them – the Holy Spirit would be in them
 - Jesus was visible - the Holy Spirit would be invisible
 - Jesus was with them temporarily – the Holy Spirit would be with them forever

2. Who is the Holy Spirit?

- Our God exists as three separate and distinguishable Persons:
 - God the Father
 - God the Son (Word)
 - God the Holy Spirit

1 John 5:7 (NKJV) *For **there are three that bear witness in heaven: **the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.*****

- One God, three Persons
- The Holy Spirit is the third Member of the Trinity
- Other names / descriptions of the Holy Spirit:
 - The Spirit
 - God's Spirit
 - Spirit of God
 - Spirit of truth
 - The Helper (KJV. Comforter, NIV. Counsellor)

3. The Holy Spirit – Teacher of the Church

John 14:25–26 (NKJV) *These things I have spoken to you while being present 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 things that I said to you.***

- Here, Jesus lists two more functions of the Holy Spirit in our lives:
- ... He will teach you all things...
- ... Bring to your remembrance all things that I (Jesus) said to you
 - Jesus taught some things – the Holy Spirit teaches all things

- Sometimes we refer to the Holy Spirit as “the true Teacher of the Church”

4. The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus Christ

John 15:26 (NKJV) *But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.*

- One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to constantly point to Jesus Christ, and to draw people’s attention toward Him as the risen Lord
- He anoints men & women and children to speak of Jesus Christ and His finished work at the cross of Calvary

5. After Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, the Holy Spirit descended

John 16:7 (NKJV) *Nevertheless 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 depart, I will send Him to you.*

- Although the Holy Spirit had already been in the earth in the O.T., to anoint selected individuals (priests, prophets & kings), He could not be poured out “en masse” until:
 - Jesus had died, risen again and ascended to heaven
 - Presented His blood in the heavenly tabernacle (Hebrews 9:12)
 - Prayed to the Father to send the Holy Spirit to empower the believers

Acts 2:33 (AMP) *Being therefore lifted high by and to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promised [blessing which is the] Holy Spirit, He has made this outpouring which you yourselves both see and hear.*

- “This outpouring” of the Holy Spirit, referred to by Ap. Peter, took place on the Day of Pentecost, 10 days after Jesus’ Ascension

6. Holy Spirit convicts spiritually lost of sin, righteousness & judgment

John 16:8–11 (NKJV) *And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.*

- The Holy Spirit empowers the believer, but convicts the unbeliever
- This conviction of sin in spiritually lost people happens mainly when someone presents the gospel to them
- Ultimately, spiritually lost people will be denied entry into heaven because of one sin, namely, for not believing in & surrendering to Jesus Christ

7. The Holy Spirit guides us into all truth & shows us things to come

John 16:12–14 (NKJV) *I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. 13 However, **when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.** 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*

- In the same way as people cannot be saved without the Saviour (Jesus Christ), people cannot come into all truth without the Spirit of truth
- He guides us (through the written word of God) into all truth (Jn. 17:17)
- He tells us (KJV. shows) us things to come
- Every true prophetic revelation about future events & happenings is a function of the Holy Spirit in and through yielded believers

8. Do not leave Jerusalem until you have received the Holy Spirit

- After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus emphasised to His disciples about their need to receive the Holy Spirit

Luke 24:46–49 (NKJV) *Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And you are witnesses of these things. 49 “**Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**”*

- Spiritually lost people must repent and receive Jesus Christ
- Believers must be endued with power from on high by receiving the Holy Spirit