

The Power and Ministry of the Holy Spirit

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. **Last week we talked about the importance of being filled with the Holy Spirit and praying in tongues (Your personal prayer language).** Today I want to talk about Jesus connecting His promise to answer prayer in 14:13-14 to the Spirit empowering them to love Him in 14:15-16.

¹⁴***“If you ask anything in My name, I will do it. ¹⁵If you love Me, keep My commandments...
¹⁶the Father...will give you another Helper...” (Jn. 14:14-16)***

II. THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS REFLECTED IN A LIFE OF OBEDIENCE

- A. **Jesus defined loving God as being deeply rooted in a spirit of obedience (14:15, 21, 23).** The call to love God is the point repeated most by Jesus in John 13-17. **He linked loving God to obeying God five times in John 14** (14:15, 21, 23, 24, 31).
- B. **John 14:12-27 gives details on how we are to participate in the transforming union with God.** In John 14, four things come together as the fruit of our union with God—**answered prayers** (14:12-14), **empowered to walk in obedient love** (14:15-20), **enjoying God’s manifest presence** (14:21-24), and **being taught by the Spirit** (14:25-27). **God designed all this for us so we can walk in fullness.**

III. THE SPIRIT EMPOWERS THE REDEEMED (JN. 14:16-18)

- A. **Jesus is so zealous for us to love Him that He sent us the Spirit to supernaturally teach, inspire, and empower us to love God with a spirit of obedience and to participate in union with God** (14:16-20).

“I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever —¹⁷the 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. ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (Jn. 14:16-18)

- B. **Jesus continues to ask the Father for things that the Father has promised.** This is the model for the believer—**to ask for things that God has promised.**

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give [a greater measure of] the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!” (Lk. 11:13)

IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS CALLED ANOTHER HELPER

- A. **The Father set us up for success by sending us the ultimate Helper to empower us (14:16, 26).** **The Holy Spirit will help us to the degree that we ask Him.** Weak people can be used by the Lord **to do miracles** (14:12), **pray in a way that He answers** (14:13-14), **walk in obedient love** (14:15), **experience His manifest presence** (14:21-24), and **be taught by the Spirit** (14:25-27) because Jesus sent the Helper (the Comforter) to us.

- B. **The Greek word paraclete is translated “Helper”, “Counselor”, “Advocate” (NIV), or “Comforter” (KJV). The term refers to a legal counsellor—an advocate who represents someone in court.** The verbal form parakaleo is often translated as **“to call alongside”** in order to strengthen, help, or to represent one as a defense attorney in the Roman legal system.
- C. **Jesus is the first Paraclete who helped His first apostles.** The Spirit is “another” Paraclete (14:26; 15:26; 16:7) who took Jesus’ place after His death. The title parakletos continues to refer to Jesus as our advocate (“lawyer”) before the Father in the courts of heaven (1 Jn. 2:1).
- D. **Jesus prays for us before the Father (Rom. 8:34), and the Spirit prays for us and within us (Rom. 8:26).** The Spirit prays for, empowers, teaches, comforts, and guides the redeemed.
- ³⁴ **...It is Christ who...at the right hand of God, who makes intercession for us. (Rom. 8:34)**
- ²⁶ **The Spirit helps in our weaknesses. We do not know what we should pray for...the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. (Rom. 8:26)**

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

- A. **Jesus identified the Helper as “the Spirit of truth” (14:17; 15:26; 16:13) who communicates truth to His people.** The world is hungering for the Spirit of Truth today. The Holy Spirit guides believers into the truth about God, His Word, His will, their personal life, ministry, and loved ones, including things about the future (16:13), and more.
- “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.” (Jn. 14:17)**
- B. **Jesus promised us the Spirit of Truth—The Holy Spirit, dwells with us and shall be in us.** He dwells with you and will be in you: The Spirit lives “in” the redeemed impacting their mind and heart or emotions (Heb. 10:16) and is “with” them—affecting their circumstances. (Isa. 52:12).
- ...“I will put My laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them”... (Heb. 10:16)**
- ...for the Lord will go before you, and the God of Israel will be your rear guard. (Isa. 52:12)**
- C. **A vibrant walk with Jesus is essential in our desire to experience more of God. It is futile to seek deep experiences with God while neglecting the Spirit’s presence and His leadership in our lives.** We cannot go deep in God with a dull spirit. We can all fellowship with the Holy Spirit. **He is a dynamic Person who lives inside us to empower our hearts as we walk in friendship with Him.**
- “The love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (2 Cor. 13:14)**
- “If you have any...comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit...” (Phil. 2:1)**
- D. **I want to encourage us today to seek a deeper walk with Jesus through the power of The Holy Spirit by: Living empowered to walk in obedient love (14:15-20), enjoying God’s manifest presence (14:21-24), and being taught by the Spirit (14:25-27).**