

Title: The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Text: John 14:15-17

Will you take your Bibles, please, and open them to the 14 th cahapter of John's Gospel. John chapter 14.

This is a great section of scripture because what we find here is the ~~last~~ instructions our Lord gave to his disciples. If you want to know what it is that the Lord wants you to do as a believer, HAY! read chapters 13-~~14~~^{through} 16-17 of

John. People ask all the time..WHAT IS IT THAT JESUS WANTS ME TO DO? .

and will ~~HAY!~~ Here it is. These are not my words, or my ideas. It is coming directly from Jesus.

Now, Jesus is teaching his disciples in the upper room. They were gathered in that room for the last supper. You must get this picture in your mind. They shared the bread and cup and he taught them new meaning concerning those elements. He ~~has~~ told them that He is going to leave them. But, their hearts shouldn't be troubled. If they believe in God, they should believe in Him. And he was going to prepare a place for them. And then he taught them the way to this place called heaven. He said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. And no one comes to the father but through me."

We concluded last Sunday, with the instruction of Jesus concerning prayer. Jesus said in Vs 14, "if you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. So that the Father maybe glorified in the Son. Isn't that exciting? I just pray that you will get all excited about prayer.

(3B) Now, today, I want to come to the Lord's instruction concerning the Holy Spirit. John chapter 14 beginning with Vs 15³¹...(ReadVs 15-17)

PRAYER

Dear friends, I believe it is very important that we all understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit, if we are to accomplish the work the Lord has for ~~us in 1996~~^{us as believers}. You know, our Lord taught much about the Holy Spirit in those last moments with His disciples. We will learn some principles here in chapter 15. And we will learn some more in chapter ~~15~~¹⁶. Oh, let me tell you, These are blessed verses...

(1.) Now, first of all, let's notice a basic principle which our Lord taught.

In Vs 15 Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."

You know, friends, throughout the N.T. there is one basic principle concerning discipleship which the Lord teaches believers, ...there is one evidence...there is one simple fact that you can write down and measure people by....and that is, THAT OBEDIENCE IS THE EVIDENCE OF REAL LOVE....

It is so easy for us to say that love is an emotion. And certainly it is. But, dear friends, our Lord taught that if you really love Christ, you will keep His commandments and you will keep His Word....

now It reminds me, once again, of what Jesus said in the great Commission before He ascended into heaven. He told his followers to "teach folks to observe, or to keep, or to obey, all the commandments which He has given to us

And those commandments deal with prayer, they deal with the ministry of the Holy Spirit, they deal with love and loving one another, they deal with having joy and peace, and they deal with sin.

Now, I know...and you know that you can talk a good line about loving Jesus. But, I remind you, that Jesus says that the one way you will know that you really love Him, is by obeying Him....

my I don't think there is in the heart of a parent anything that is more rewarding than to see the spontaneous and voluntary love of their children expressed in immediate obedience. Instead of having to put consequences upon their life, yet, that child willingly responds in obedience. THAT IS LOVE.

And I believe the one theme that stands out very clearly in the N.T. is that loving Christ results in obedience. *Jesus said, if you love me, you will keep my commandments.*

And we ought to instruct every disciple of Jesus that we are to follow what ^{he} Jesus said. We are to obey Christ. We are to do what He wants. Keeping his commandments and keeping His Word is the real test as to whether or not you are really born again, whether or not you really love Jesus. And as we have already learned from chapter 13: 35, "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

And, also, loving Jesus causes us to love one another. Loving Jesus is obeying as a servant would obey. And loving one another is serving one another. And submitting ourselves one to another in the fear of God.

It is interesting that that is the number one principle that Christ emphasized throughout the N.T.

You know, some folks feel that they are obedient in this area of love by putting a sticker on their car bumper. You know, "HONK, IF YOU LOVE JESUS!"

I saw one once...and so I honked my horn....no response.... Then I drove up along side of the car and hollered: "HAY! I LOVE JESUS, TOO!!" And the man driving the car responded with a few choice words....

Friends, the real evidence that you are a christian, that you really love Jesus, is OBEDIENCE....You see, it is part of your life. And you couldn't do anything else but obey Him. That is the basic principle of christian discipleship...OBEDIENCE.....

Now, let me share with you the wonderful blessing of all of this. I look at that principle and I say..."OH, MAN, I REALLY WANT TO OBEY JESUS." But I have a problem. I want to obey God and I want to keep His commandments. But you know I have a nature that is bent the other way. It is prone to wander...It is prone to go its own way. And I don't want to keep His commandments.

Now, I love Jesus. And by way of desire, I do spiritually. But my old sin nature says..."BILL, DO YOUR OWN THINGS..."

And I am sure that you have the same problem....right?.....

And that is the wonderful blessing about what Jesus taught at this point. It is great. Because here we find in Vs 16, which is the (2C) second thing that I want you to see, the prayer of Jesus for the Holy Spirit.

Vs 16, Jesus said, "AND I WILL ASK THE FATHER, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER HELPER." Praise God...Think about that..

Do you know what keep those disciples on the track? ..JESUS...He was the helper or comforter with them all the time keeping them on the track. And now Jesus is praying to the Father that He gives us another helper to keep us on the track. Dear friends, the Holy Spirit of God has been given to every believer. ~~And He is always with us~~

Now, let me remind you of some facts concerning the Holy Spirit. And if you don't know this you should write it down.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God. He is not an influence, or a force field from God, or, some sort of impact in your life like your conscious. NO WAY...The Holy Spirit is a ~~real person~~^{God}. Just as surely as the Father is a ~~real person~~^{God}. And just as Jesus is a ~~real person~~^{God}.

And the Holy Spirit has all of the attributes of personality. He can be grieved. He can love. He can sense righteous anger. The Holy Spirit has all the attributes of personality. WHY? Because he is a real person.

Also, the Holy Spirit has all the attributes of God. WHY? Because He is God. HE IS OMNIPRESENT. He is everywhere at once.

Psalms 139:7 says, "Where can I go from Thy Spirit? Or, where can I flee from Thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, or dwell in the remotest part of the sea, thy are there." Dear friends, you cannot run away from God's Holy Spirit.

He is eternal. Hebrews 9:4 says that Jesus offered His blood by the eternal Spirit. He is eternal.

The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is "ALL POWERFUL."

The Bible teaches that He is "ALL KNOWING." I Cor. 2 teaches that the Spirit knows the deepthings of God. The Spirit searches all things and knows all things.

So, the Holy Spirit has all the attributes of God. And he has all the attributes of personality. WHY? BECAUSE HE IS GOD

And if there is something wrong in Christianity today. It is engorging the person who dwells within you. And most of us live for years without fully understanding that God's very presence and life lives within us

Oh, listen, dear Christian, the Bible teaches that you are saved based upon what Jesus has done on the cross. Jesus died and paid for our sins. And on the third day Jesus rose from the dead. We are saved by grace and not by works. That is so wonderful. And I thank God for it.

But, dear friends, if you stay there and do not understand that God, also, gave you the Holy Spirit...God Himself dwelling in you..if you don't get awholed of that principle, then you don't know the key to spiritual life and growth. It is so important.

Now, when Jesus prayed to the Father to give us the Helper, he said, He will give you another helper. The word "another" means "ONE JUST LIKE HIMSELF." The Holy Spirit is another of the same kind. This doesn't mean "different." It means "of the same kind."

O.K. Same as what? SAME AS JESUS. The Holy Spirit is just like Jesus. He is doing the same work in your life and mine that Jesus did with the disciples when He was on earth. ISN'T THAT WONDERFUL? You have Jesus with you, right now, in the person of the Holy Spirit. PRAISE GOD.

And as vs 17 says "He is in you". He ~~dwells~~ abides in your life

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3C) Now, third, we find in Vs 16⁻¹⁷ a discription of the Holy Spirit. In these verses the Holy Spiirt is being discribed in two ways.

(1D) Number on, in Vs 16, he is discribed as being a helper, ^{greek 55145} comforter.

And (2D) Secondly, in Vs 17 he is discribed as being "the spirit of truth."

These two discriptions are fundamental to you and to me in terms of our spiritual growth. It is very important that you understand the meaning and application if you are go grow in God's grace and knowledge. So, let's look at it *for a moment*

(1D) First of all, He is being discribed as the "helper" or "comforter". The word "comforter" means "one called along side of." Dear friends, isn't it wonderful to know that the Holy Spirit has come along side of you to provide strength and encouragement...to build your life. *To Bring Comfort*

Man, I think it is so wonderful. Think about it. All the comfort that you need. I don't care what you are going through. I don't care what is happening in your life. If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit of God is your comforter. Just like Jesus was to the disciples, *for the H.S. is to you*

You know, I believe part of our problem in understanding the Holy Spirit is that we engore Him. Maybe our eyes are not open to Him.

But, let me tell you. He is there in our life. And He wants to comfort us. Many times we don't give Him the chance. Many times we flee to someone that we hope will comfort us. And if we choose to do that, we should go to people who have the spiritual gift of comfort. Because the Holy Spirit is working His comfort throug them.

Sometimes we just go along hoping that somebody will say something. And yet, right inside of us is all the comfort that we need. One who is called along side of you to encourage you and to build you up.

Do you know that He wants to comfort you more than you are going to let Him? Did you know that? It is true. He wants to comfort you more than you want to be comforted. A lot of us would rather sit in our depression and our arm pits of dispair. Instead of accepting the wonderful comforting ministry of the Holy Spirit. Dear friends, He wants to comfort you today.

(2D) Now, secondly, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Dear friends, this is really a wonderful principle. Because in the Greek it says that He is ~~The~~ Spirit of "THE TRUTH." It is not just "truth" in general. BUT, "THE TRUTH." The particular body of truth. The sum total of all truth which is THE WORD OF GOD. In other words, the area of the Spirit's, and we are going to learn all about this next Sunday, is THE TRUTH.

Jesus said in John 17:17 "THY WORD IS TRUTH. MEANING..THE BIBLE. That is why we need to comprehend it...why we must understand it..why we must apply it in our life. The Holy Spirit wrote the Bible. He is the spirit of truth by way of authorship.

The Holy Spirit, also, is the one who controlled the men who wrote so that that which was written, was what was actually done, said, and recorded. It actually happened. So, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth in that sense.

He is, also, the Spirit of THE TRUTH in His guidances and His leading in my life. Because the Spirit of God will never lead you into error. Isn't that a tremendous promise. He will lead you into THE TRUTH.

Now, the sum total of that which He is going to guide you into is THE TRUTH WRITTEN...NAMELY, THE WORD OF GOD.

You say, HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT? Look down at Vs 26 of John 14. It says, "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."

Now, we Christians like to pull that verse out of context and apply it to all types of situations. Like the young person who was taking an examination and he prayed: "LORD, LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BRING EVERYTHING THAT WAS SAID IN THIS CLASS TO MY MIND."

Oh No, that is not what it means. If you want the Holy Spirit to bring to your mind and remembrance all that Jesus said, then you are going to have to read the Word of God..you must memorize the Word of God..you must apply the Word of God. You see, when you do that, then, in any given situation you can call upon the Lord, and he will use His Word to comfort your life.

The Holy Spirit will guide you into all THE TRUTH. ~~And the sum total of all truth is the WORD OF GOD.~~

WHICH MEANS WHAT? Do you know why we don't get comforted? Do you know why we don't make the right decisions in our life? Do you know why we are not guided and lead by the Holy Spirit? Because we are not following the WORD OF GOD LIKE WE SHOULD. We are not applying the Word to our life. Thus, when something happens in our life, the Holy Spirit is not able to apply His truth and comfort because nothing is there. ~~Why~~

You see, dear friends, if the Holy Spirit is leading you, He is leading you into all THE TRUTH. And this Bible is all the truth there is.

So, if you want comfort, then watch the Spirit lead you into the truth. Paul wrote about the comfort of the Scriptures. That which is written. When Paul talked about the second coming of Christ in I Thess. 4, he concluded by saying "Comfort one another with these words." WHAT WORDS? The words of scripture.

Let me ask you a question. When you try to bring comfort to a person's life, do you use THE WORD OF GOD? Or, do you say, "Oh, that is to bad! Or, I am sorry to hear that!"

Dear friends, anyone can say that. Anyone can express symphy. Wouldn't it be great if we Christians got awhole of this principle and started comforting one another and those out in the world with THE WORD OF GOD Man! that would be tremendous. Because the Holy Spirit is the comforter. And He is the author of THE TRUTH. And He will use THE WORD TO BRING COMFORT.

Open

SOFTLY

So, friends, one verse of scripture administered to my life at the right time is all the comfort that I need. That is the truth. And when I hear THE TRUTH, even though it hurts, it is what I need. And that is what really builds. That is what really brings encouragement. I want to know the truth. You can sympathize all day long, ^{simply} Instead of sharing ^{the} Word. ^{But} I have discovered in ministering to people that one verse of scripture means more than all my sympathetic understanding. Why?... Because God loves and he desires to minister to your needs and mine ^{need}. And the way he does that is through the Holy Spirit's ministry of THE TRUTH.... *The Bible*

And that is a wonderful principle to apply to your life.

But, before you can apply that principle you need to ~~get right~~ ^{be saved} with God.

~~And~~ You see, you can't receive the Holy Spirit's ministry ~~if~~ unless the Holy Spirit is in your life. And the way you get the Holy Spirit of God in your life, is by acknowledging your sins and receiving Jesus as Lord and Saviour. If we confess our sin he is faithful and just to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteous.

So, let's turn our life over to Jesus. For ~~he is the way, the truth,~~ ^{IF we love Him, we}

~~and the life,~~ *will obey him*
~~_____~~ *_____*
~~_____~~ *_____*

Let Us close in Prayer
