

The Holy Spirit: His Person and His Work

Sunday, November 1, 2015

John 14:16,17

I. Introduction

"We may as well face it: the level of spirituality among us is low. We have measured ourselves by ourselves until the incentive to seek higher plateaus in the things of the Spirit is all but gone...[We] have imitated the world, sought popular favor, manufactured delights to substitute for the joy of the Lord and produced a cheap and synthetic power to substitute for the power of the Holy Ghost." AW Tozer

II. The Promise

John 13:33,36 (ESV) – "Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come...Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?" Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but you will follow afterward."

But Jesus now promises the Holy Spirit to his disciples. Jesus asks His Father for *another* Helper who is called the Spirit of truth.

"He is another Helper, not a different Helper." W. Hendrickson

Another means "one like myself" who will take my place, do my work.

III. The Paraclete

The Holy Spirit is called "another Helper" or "another Paraclete."
This word paraclete means that he is a person "called to the side" in order to help.

"But Paul's view of the relationship between Christ and the Spirit has clear parallels with the idea present in the Johannine witness: the Son and the Spirit share an identity of ministry. The Son is parakletos, the Spirit is allos parakletos. Both function as paracletes and do so successively in the earthly realm, the Spirit being another of the same kind as the Son...Thus to have the Spirit is to have Christ; to have Christ is to have the Spirit. Not to have the Spirit of Christ is to lack Christ. To have the Spirit of Christ is to be indwelt by Christ...Thus, to have the Spirit is to have Christ; to have Christ is to have the Spirit. Not to have the Spirit of Christ is to lack Christ. To have the Spirit of Christ is to be indwelt by Christ (Romans 8:9-11)." S. Ferguson

Like Jesus, the Paraclete (Spirit) is sent by the Father and comes from the Father. Jesus is the truth, the Paraclete is the Spirit of truth, just as Jesus has comforted the disciples, so now the Spirit will comfort them. Just as Jesus

admonishes the disciples, so now the Spirit will admonish them. Just as Jesus has taught the disciples so now the Spirit will teach them. Just as Jesus guided the disciples so now the Spirit will guide them.

“So complete is the union between Jesus and the Paraclete that the coming of the latter is the coming of Jesus himself in the Spirit.” S. Ferguson

The Holy Spirit is “the Spirit of truth” -

IV. The Power

“You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 1:32-34 – “And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

“will be in you” speaks to the Day of Pentecost and future event.

IV. The Point?

1. The promise of Jesus has been fulfilled.
2. The Holy Spirit dwells inside each of us.
3. The Holy Spirit is ‘another helper just like Jesus.
4. The Holy Spirit will point us to Jesus and not to Himself.
5. The Holy Spirit’s coming helps us with intimacy with God.
6. The Holy Spirit’s coming highlights Jesus resurrection.
7. The Holy Spirit will lead us into truth.