

THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Text: John 14:16-18

The night before the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, he walks with his disciples and encourages them concerning what is about to happen. He tells them that the time has come for him to go back to the Father from which he came but that he would not leave them comfortless. The word comfortless is translated from the Greek word “orphanous” which is where we get our English word orphans. He was saying that he would not leave them without guidance, comfort or fatherless. He begins to tell them about the Comforter that will be coming in His name to be with them and in them for ever. He then reveals that this Comforter is the Holy Spirit and gives them a briefing about what his mission is.

Jesus Christ both died and revived that we would receive the promise of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the gift given in salvation to everyone who repents and believes in Jesus Christ. The Lord referred to the Holy Spirit as “living water” to the Samaritan woman. John the Baptist saw the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus after His baptism like a dove. Jesus told Nicodemus that the Spirit was like the blowing wind which cannot be seen but can be felt. John said that Jesus would baptize his believers with the Holy Ghost and fire. Christ said that if any man thirst to come to him and drink and out of his belly would flow rivers of living water. The Holy Spirit is symbolized in scripture by fire, wind, flowing water, a dove, and a servant...He is not wind, or water, or a dove etc...He is a person. He is the third person of the trinity, equal with the Father and the Son in power and perfection. He is not third because He is the least, but because He is the last of the three to be revealed to mankind. In the beginning, Jehovah was revealed to man.. the great I AM. In the gospels, the Son of God was revealed in the person of Jesus Christ...the True Light, the bread of Life, the Lamb of God, and the Good Shepherd. 40 days after Jesus's resurrection from the dead he ascended back to glory from which He came and ten days later, the Holy Spirit came in power on the day of Pentecost and this has been His dispensation ever since. The Holy Spirit is God's presence in the earth carrying out the will of and glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christians now have been put into His custody and care. The Son is at the right hand of the Father today but the Spirit is in us both guiding and guarding us. The word Comforter in its original setting means “one called alongside to help”. You and I need help everyday of our lives because in our own strength we are weak and prone to fail. We need to recognize the most essential truth of the Christian life is our dependence and partnership with the Holy Spirit. If you try to live the Christian life without the empowering and influence of the Holy Spirit, you will be constantly frustrated and deflated. Let me give you just a few examples of the work the Holy Spirit was sent to do in our lives.

- **Comforter** – The Holy Spirit administers the grace of God in our lives as we need it. He helps us in our infirmities(weaknesses). He supports us and gives us strength when we are weak and feel like we can't go on. He holds us when we sorrow and are faced with sadness due to the adversities of this life. He can give us peace in moments when we

shouldn't have any. He encourages us when we want to quit. He whispers wisdom when it is needed and fills us with boldness when we would otherwise be afraid.

- **Counselor - John 16:13-14** *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. The Holy Spirit is our guide through this world. He is truth and He guides us into truth. He reveals the scriptures to us. He makes known the will of Jesus Christ to us personally. The Bible reveals the general will of God and the Spirit reveals the specific will of God to us. A lot of doors open in life and many opportunities will present themselves, but they are not all of God so we need the counseling guidance of the Spirit to know what is right and what isn't. The Spirit of God brings order to what was in chaos and He will set your life in order if you will listen to and obey him... and that order will glorify Christ.*
- **Conformer** – The word “conform” means to be shaped or molded to resemble a particular standard or pattern. The purpose in God saving us is to conform us to the image of Jesus Christ. Your spirit was saved at the very moment you trusted in Christ for salvation but your soul is continuously being saved by sanctification of the Spirit. Sanctification means to make holy and to set apart for God. This is a work of the Spirit of God in you with help from the word of God and your cooperation. The Spirit will continuously work on us little by little to remove the things that are not like Christ and develop the new nature that we received at our new birth. He convicts our conscience of sins and inspires us to love others with the love of God. He is not trying to make over our outside or pretty up our flesh, but He is in the transformation business from the inside out.

How do we have a good partnership with the Holy Spirit?

- **Submit to Him** – He is God and He is who we need to help us everyday of our lives. Since He is God we need to willingly submit to Him. The reason He is not as active in our lives as we would like is because we're doing life our way on our terms. How to get on or stay in good terms with the Holy Spirit...submit yourself to Him. That means you turn over the keys of your life to Him and He is free to change, move or rearrange anything He pleases.
- **Seek Him** – When you were lost God pursued you, now that you're found and have a relationship with Him...it's up to you to pursue Him. The book of Acts is incredible because it's the account of the Holy Spirit working through the apostles and church mightily...Why? Because they spent a lot of time in prayer seeking the direction and power of the Holy Spirit. Do you ask the Spirit to lead you through the day? Do you ask the Spirit before making decisions? Do you ask Him to assist you in your relationships or marriage? Do you ask Him to reveal the will of Jesus Christ to you? Do you ask Him to help you do what God has called you to do? The Holy Spirit is always with us but He likes to be asked for help.

- **Don't cause Him to sorrow** – The Holy Spirit is very sensitive and can be easily offended or grieved. There are two specific things we're told not to do to Him... 1. is to grieve Him 2. is to quench Him. To grieve means to cause to sorrow. When we sin as Christians, we grieve Him. When He is grieved we know it because it brings us to grief. That's why 1 John tells us to confess our sins so we can stay on good terms with the Spirit and have fellowship with Christ. The Spirit is grieved when Christians hurt other Christians. That's why the Bible commands us to put away wrath, bitterness, evil speaking etc and keeps instructing us to forgive each other. We quench the Spirit when we resist Him...He is moving us to action and we refuse to obey His leadership. Our disobedience smothers Him like a wet blanket over a fire. The more we yield to the moving of the Spirit, the more powerfully He moves like a river running down hill.