

55. Another Helper

October 30, 2011

The third Person in the Trinity, the Holy Spirit is, without a doubt, the most misunderstood One in the Godhead by many believers and unbelievers alike.

Last Sunday I began my teaching with the definitions of many cults regarding Jesus, the Son of the Living God. This time, we will take a look at what they say about the Holy Spirit:

- Jehovah's Witness: Impersonal "holy spirit" is not God, but rather an invisible, active force from Jehovah.
- Mormonism: The "holy spirit" is different from the "Holy Ghost." The "holy spirit" is not God, but an influence or electricity-like emanation from God (or "light of Christ").
- Unification Church: The Holy Spirit is a feminine spirit who works with Jesus in the spirit world to lead people to Moon Sun Myung.
- Scientology: The Holy Spirit is not part of this belief.
- Islam: Allah has or is a spirit. Muslims reject the biblical concept of the Trinity.
- New-Age: sometimes a psychic force. Man is divine and can experience psychic phenomena such as contacting unearthly beings.

Within Christianity, the doctrines for the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit can be separated by the two polar opposite views. One group believes that some of the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit are no longer available since we have the complete Bible. But more charismatic denominations tend to run wild with the doctrines of the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit away from what the Bible teaches.

In case you are wondering where Calvary Chapel stands on this matter, we stand right between two of these opposite ends. We believe that all the gifts and works of the Holy Spirit are still available to the believers of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

At the same time we must use them within the biblical boundary as the Holy Spirit leads us. And believers should not use excuses for their weird behaviors as the work of the Holy Spirit. Because exercising the Holy Spirit's gift is under the control of the individual believer.

1 Corinthians 14:32-33 And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Obviously there is much confusion regarding the Holy Spirit and His works and gifts. Let's hear from the Lord Jesus about the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Trinity.

A. LOVING GOD = OBEYING GOD

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

This is a fair measure of our love for Jesus. It is easy to think of loving Jesus in merely sentimental or emotional terms. It is wonderful when our love for Jesus has sentiment and passion, but it must always be connected to obeying His commandments, or it isn't love at all.

People can say all they want how much they love God, but if they don't obey the commandments of the Lord, they are doing nothing more than lip services to Him.

Our obedience to His Word is the outward expression of our love for the Lord.

B. ANOTHER HELPER

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

Today we are learning two names of the Holy Spirit which were given by the Lord Jesus. We see the first one here – “another Helper.”

In v15 Jesus spoke of the true disciples’ love for Him, but this time He reveals His love for them by unveiling the supernatural promise of a divine Helper. One Greek word here really tells us an awful lot, it’s what we call a crucial word in theology. It is the word ‘another’ of which the Greek word is “allos”.

There are two different Greek words that mean ‘another’. There is “Heteros” which means “another of a different kind”. And the second word is “allos”, which means “another of exactly the same kind’.

What Jesus was saying to His disciples and us is that He was going to pray to the Father that He would dispatch the Holy Spirit who has the same divine nature like Jesus Himself, not a human, not even a mighty angel.

Speaking of angels, I know that many people are fascinated by angels. Some even worship angels rather than God. Just for the fun of it, I checked out Google web site to see how many web pages that mention the word angel (s) around the world. Can you guess? 1.1 billion pages.

John 14:16 is one of the verses in the Bible that shows the underlying theme of the Trinity. God the Son prays to God the Father that He might send God the Holy Spirit to us.

You never read of any dissension in the Trinity. You never read of the Holy Spirit saying, “No, wait a minute, Jesus. I disagree.” Or the Son saying, “Let’s take a vote on that.” They were all working in beautiful and perfect harmony together – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And then there’s the fourth part and that’s us. Let me put it to you this way. If our spiritual life is out of tune from God, guess who’s singing off key. It’s not the Father, its not the Son, it certainly is not the Spirit, it’s us.

If you have NIV or NLT, they read “Counselor”; if you have King Jimmy Version, it says “Comforter”. Which one is the correct version? They all are correct. “Parakletos” is the Greek word for ‘Helper,’ ‘Comforter,’ and ‘Counselor.’ It means “called alongside to assist, comfort, advocate.” The Holy Spirit NEVER works instead of us, or in spite of us, but always in us and through us.

While I was preparing this study, the words “another Helper” reminded me the opposite words of this in many ways: antichrist.

The “antichrist” is used in the Bible only by apostle John. It describes three things:

- 1) A spirit in the world that opposes or denies Christ
- 2) The false teachers who embody this spirit
- 3) A person who will head up the final world rebellion against Christ.

The prefix ‘anti’ actually has a dual meaning in the Greek, both “against” Christ and “instead of” Christ. Satan in his frenzy is fighting Christ and His eternal truth, and he is using his counterfeits as substitutes to be our Lord Jesus.

While the Holy Spirit is another Person in the Trinity to help us comfort us, and bring unbelievers to Jesus, antichrist is out there to rob our spiritual heritage, to destroy our spiritual effort to bring glory to Jesus, and to kill our testimonies of Jesus to an unbelieving world. What a stark contrast!

Look at what Jesus says about 'another Helper' in v16:

1) God the Father will give the Holy Spirit to all born-again believers as a guarantee.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

2) Jesus used a pronoun 'He' for 'another Helper' instead of 'it.'

In other words, the Holy Spirit is NOT a force from somewhere mumbo jumbo cosmos like New Ages people and the Jedi Knights from Star Wars believes.

3) Another Helper abides in the heart of believers FOREVER once He goes in.

The Holy Spirit is not a seasonal guest in our hearts. He doesn't come and go as He wishes. He permanently resides in our hearts and our hearts become His temple.

1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

C. THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

John 14:17 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.

The second name of the Holy Spirit Jesus mentioned is "the Spirit of truth". Apart from the Holy Spirit, no man, no woman can ever know the truth about their sinful condition and about the righteousness of God and what it takes to get to God.

The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Bible which is the truth from cover to cover. That is why the world rejects the Bible, twists it, discards it, and even tries to mix it with their lies.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

You notice in v17 concerning the Holy Spirit Jesus says, "He dwells with you and will be in you." Later on in Acts 1 Jesus said, "the Holy Spirit has come upon you."

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

So notice that He'll be with you, He'll be in you, He'll come upon you. Look at it this way. The Holy Spirit who is God Himself is with us because He is omni-present; then He comes after us to save us. When we obey His call and become born-again believers by receiving Jesus into our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes in us to sanctify us; and the Holy Spirit comes upon us to supercharge us, to get us ready and able to do God's work in this world. Now that's the relationship we want with God.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Apart from Him, people cannot know truth; they cannot understand truth; they cannot discover truth.

Think about this with me, ladies and gentlemen. The very God who created the entire universe, the very God who can hold the universe in the palm of His hand, He dwells in your heart when you became a born-again Christian. Can you get a grasp of that? To me, it is absolutely mind-boggling. What a privilege, marvelous grace of God that He would plant His very essence in us! We have a supernatural Helper, not somewhere in the other side of the universe, but in every one of us. Every moment of your life, every second of your existence on this earth as a believer and throughout all eternity, you have the presence of the Holy Spirit within you.

Just a side note: Were the disciples of Jesus saved at this point? I don't think so for two reasons.

1) Jesus said to them, "He dwells with you and will be in you." If they were already born-again, He would have said, "He dwells in you and will be in you."

2) The comment by Jesus in chapter 20 makes it clear to us.

John 20:22 Then he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

You may say, "So, what is your point, preacher?" People can think that they are born-again Christians though they do not have the Holy Spirit within them. But without the Holy Spirit, eventually that person will show the true color and will be rejected by the Lord because he rejects Jesus.

D. I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS

John 14:18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

'Orphans' in Greek is "orphanos." It means "teacherless, without a guardian." Though Jesus was about to leave His disciples on earth, but He would be replaced by the Holy Spirit who can be in every born-again believer's heart at the same time. Since Jesus was limited in a human body, He could not be everywhere at the same time, but the Holy Spirit would not have that limitation.

I heard a story from Pastor Steve Mays who has a Calvary Chapel in Gardena, CA. One day he read a book from a well-known Christian teacher who mentioned that being of the head of ministry can be quite lonely. So when he met Pastor Chuck Smith who is the founder of Calvary Chapel movement around the world, "Chuck, are you lonely since you are the head of all the Calvary Chapels?" Pastor Chuck replied in his typical slow baritone voice, "How can you be lonely when God is with you all the time?" Mays came back to his church office and dumped that book in the trash can.

Having the presence of God in our hearts 24/7 brings comfort and serious warning to us.

1) Comfort – Wherever we go, the Holy Spirit goes with us. He watches over us and protects us and comforts us.

1 John 4:4b He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

2) Warning – I heard that the true measure of a godly person is what he or she does behind the closed door when no one is watching. How true! No physical eye may be present with you, but the indwelling Holy Spirit is.

Let me make one example. Next time when you are at the gray area, like watching a R-rated movie that contains vulgar, profanities, sex, and nude scenes or one of those popular vampire movies, ask yourself, "Would I watch this movie if Jesus is sitting next to me?" I am sure that the answer is definitely "NO." Then, why would you even consider watching it when the Holy Spirit is within you?

Some of you are thinking right now, "You are taking all the fun out of life, JK." My response is v15.

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

APPLICATIONS

1) Our obedience to His Word is the outward expression of our love for the Lord.

2) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. Apart from Him, people cannot know truth; they cannot understand truth; they cannot discover truth.

3) The true measure of a godly person is what he or she does behind the closed door when no one is watching.