

The Final Days of Jesus
HOLY SPIRIT 101
Monday, March 16
Reading: John 14:15-24

John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commands. **16** And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.

For some reason most churches today do not talk much about the Holy Spirit. But Jesus spent a lot of time on this last night with His disciples discussing the Spirit's important role in their lives and ministry.

First, the Spirit would be their DIVINE COMFORTER (14:16-20). The word translated 'advocate' in the NIV is translated as 'helper, counselor, and comforter' in other places. It is the Greek word *paráklētos* which means 'one called alongside to help.' With Jesus returning to the Father, the Holy Spirit would take His place. While on earth Jesus' presence with them was limited by His physical body. The Spirit would live in each of His followers forever.

Second, the Spirit would pour God's DIVINE LOVE in their hearts (14:21-24; see also Romans 5:5). Jesus' words that He would reveal Himself only to those who show their love by obeying His commands confused the disciples. They still believed that the kingdom of God was imminent. Judas (sometimes called Thaddeus or Lebbaeus) wondered why Jesus would not return and reveal Himself to the whole world and take His place as King. Jesus' response was that He will not reveal Himself to those who refuse to love and obey Him. Those who truly accept Him as Lord will not only know the Father and Son, but They will make Their home in the believer. Jesus here uses the same word for home as He does in 14:2 ("mansions or rooms"). As believers will one day make their home with God in heaven, God will make His home with believers now on earth.

LESSON ONE: "I Will Not Leave You as Orphans." With all they had heard this night, the disciples must have felt very abandoned and alone. But Jesus assures, "I will come to you." This is referring to His resurrection which assures all believers of their own resurrection one day. After His ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit would come and live in them. This occurred on the Day of Pentecost and continues to occur the moment a person receives Christ as Lord and Savior. When have you felt alone or abandoned? How does the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit comfort you?

LESSON TWO: "Anyone Who Loves Me Will Obey My Teaching." I believe this is why so many Christians are not living a fulfilled life in Christ. They think that salvation is all about them and their needs. But Jesus says those who truly love Him will obey His commands. That is why the world does not understand the Holy Spirit or receive God's love. They refuse to place their lives in God's hands. Until we realize that the Christian life is about obeying and serving God we will never have the joy of our salvation. How joyful is your life in Christ? What areas do you need to be more obedient in to show greater love for Christ?