

May 20, 2018

John 14:15-31

The Holy Spirit: Operator or Helper?

Today we are 7 “Sabbaths” past Easter. *What does that make this Sunday? Pentecost!* To celebrate, we’re starting a new series about the Holy Spirit the Son promised & Father sent to dwell in each believer the Pentecost after Resurrection Sunday! Jesus had accomplished His mission: to “reverse the curse” of Adam’s sin in the Garden 3,000 years earlier by establishing a **Way** to God thru the **Truth** of God back into **Life** with God! Of course, Jesus IS this Way, Truth & Life of God; but it’s the Holy Spirit who lives the blessing of this divine Life in us!

One way to view the Trinity is: the Father is God over us; Jesus is God with us; and the Spirit is God in us! And we’re going to be talking about the Spirit and His function in us as *He continues making holy those whom He perfected at salvation!*

READ: John 14:16-31 (NLT)

15,16) Love motivates obedience; not vice-versa (*faith=works*)

-**N.C. FIX:** God’s Spirit motivates love AND obedience

-Man’s Disobedience was problem with the 1st C

-Holy Spirit is the power we need to love & obey!

-We don’t muster up power; we submit to Him who is

-Obeying does not mean “perfectly!” *but progressively*

17) “*HS abides with you (in Jesus!)*” Spirit & truth worshipers

-**John 4:10,14,23-24**

18-21) Thru the Holy Spirit, we are “in” Jesus & Father

-The distinct persons of God not categorical; free-flow

22-26) Holy Spirit is the culmination of God abiding in us

-He reveals God and His will to us

-He reveals truth (*often camouflaged by “sight” & need*)

-He reveals/teaches all things & reminds us @ righteous

27) Jesus leaves us with Peace! Not circumstantial, but the HS!

-Jesus doesn’t give like the world; His gift = the Spirit

-Eternal Help, Advocate, Comfort, Counsel, Truth

-Holy Spirit satisfies/fulfills perfectly & fully

-Delivers what is Promised to the fullest extent

28-31) “*I have told you before it happens so you’ll believe*”

-Satan has no power over Me; nor us in Him!

The word *paracletos* = Advocate, **lawyer!** But translations also use words like: **Helper, Comforter, or Counselor.** I like them all! Our problem is that we think of a Counselor as someone we go to *when we need counseling*; or a Comforter as someone who gives comfort *when we need it*; or a Helper as...! We miss the point of the exchanged life of God to be lived by the HS in us!

It is a fallacy that the HS is only in us to help us when we think we need help! Many Christians believe that God wants us to do the best we can; and when that falls short (*of our desired result or His*), then the Spirit “makes up the rest” or “fills in the gap!” The Holy Spirit is not a “Gap filler!” between our best efforts & God’s work, or our best plans & God’s will, or our best earthly life and God’s divine life. He is not in us to make up the difference between the life we live and the life God wants us to live! Rather, He Himself IS the Life of God in us!

*Dallas Willard, Theologian: “*Humans are meant to function under a larger Power, greater Wisdom & higher Ways...under God’s Holy Spirit!*” *Waiting on the Lord is fundamentally important; it means not taking things into our own hands by trying to solve & fix...” but submitting to the Holy Spirit to do in us, with us, what pleases God by His own power!*

Learning to rely on the Holy Spirit does not mean when we run out of ideas, or *when we reach the end of our resources*, or after our solutions don’t fix the problem! Depending on the Holy Spirit means learning how to be “*operated by Him!*”... *giving Him the right to activate us daily, from morning to night!*
-(Glove on a hand!!)

ILLUS. *Huge difference between Helping and Operating!*

Ring the bell when God’s divine life is experienced!

Here’s another example of letting the Spirit live God’s life in us

Member Testimony: Rachel

INVITATION TO RESPOND PERSONALLY:

- 1) Have you been saved by faith in Jesus; Is the Spirit in you?
- 2) Are you prepared to let the Spirit live God’s divine life?
- 3) Are you challenged to live life differently than “normal”?

WORSHIP IN MEDITATION: Ezekiel 36:26,27 (ISV)

In forecasting the New Covenant inaugurated thru the life & death of Jesus Christ, God writes thru Ezekiel:

26) *"I'm going to give you a new heart, and I'm going to give you a new spirit within all of your deepest parts. I'll remove that rock-hard heart of yours and replace it with one that's sensitive to Me. 27) I'll place My Spirit within you, empowering you to live according to my regulations and to keep my just decrees."*

This is the way that God makes us His people: He gives us a new heart & spirit (nature), converting us from sinners to saints – *"holy ones."* And then He puts His Holy Spirit in us to empower us to live His divine life on earth. But the question we'll answer this morning is: *Does the Holy Spirit dwell in us to help us live God's life, or to operate God's life in us as we live?*

Sermon in a Sentence: The HS: Operator or Helper?

15) *"If you love me, obey my commandments. 16) And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. 17) He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. 18) No, I will not abandon you as orphans—I will come to you. 19) Soon the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Since I live, you also will live. 20) When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. 21) Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them."*

22) Judas (not Judas Iscariot, but the other disciple with that name) said to him, "Lord, why are you going to reveal yourself only to us and not to the world at large?"

23) Jesus replied, "All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. **24)** Anyone who doesn't love me will not obey me.

And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. **25)** I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. **26)** But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

27) "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid. **28)** Remember what I told you: I am going away, but I will come back to you again. If you really loved me, you would be happy that I am going to the Father, who is greater than I am. **29)** I have told you these things before they happen so that when they do happen, you will believe.

30) "I don't have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches. He has no power over me, **31)** but I will do what the Father requires of me, so that the world will know that I love the Father. Come, let's be going.

ILLUS. *(This can be illustrated! Have a man in a robe stand between your best efforts and God's will! Get Joel (longest reach! – no dummy!) to bridge the gap between the end of me & God's goal! Too far! Then, let Joel engulf me and "operate" me (hands on shoulders from behind? to God's goal!)*

Bell for ringing!

Worship: tithing! Doesn't start with 10%!

Service: Inconvenience! Kathy's testimony – ride home!

Evangelism: Doing godly things must be explained!

Fellowship: only love others to a point! Safely?

Ministry: Is not @ comfort zones; it's @ God's call

John 4:23,24 (NIV)

23) Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24)** God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth."