

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

In **John 14** Jesus was preparing His disciples for the crucifixion (for His departure), and in **verse 16** He says that a Comforter, and in some versions, "*another Helper*" – **the Holy Spirit** – will come and abide with them forever. He will also come to teach them all things and remind them of things He had said (verse 26). In another verse Jesus states that it is better for Him to go away, because if He doesn't, then the Comforter could not be sent. Imagine what the disciples must have thought! Better than having the Master alive with us? Better than having His personal teaching and counsel day in and day out? No way! Why did Jesus emphasise the function of the Holy Spirit in such a fashion? I believe it's because He wanted to prepare them (and all believers) for the vital role that the Holy Spirit was meant to play in their everyday lives.

John 14:15-17, "***And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter*** (besides Myself) ***to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth . . . you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.***" Note, the Greek word for Comforter ("*paraclete*") means '*one who is called along side to help*'. With the word "another" preceding it, the Lord is implying that the Holy Spirit will do exactly what He would do if He was present. Therefore, we can define this function of the Holy Spirit as a Comforter (one besides Jesus, but just like Him) who lives within us to draw along side us and help in time of need. Imagine that! Having an internal comforter and counsellor; someone who will draw along side you throughout the day, someone to talk to who will listen to you and help you. Just like Jesus taught His disciples and answered their questions, so the Holy Spirit dwelling in you can teach you and answer all your questions - provided you will listen to Him. Listening to the Holy Spirit who lives in you is the key to receiving divine help.

One of the Jewish names for the Messiah (Mxnm), is "our Comforter." Exactly what Jesus had been to His disciples. But now He was about to leave them, so to support their sorrows He promises to use His influence with His Father to give them another Comforter (meaning the Holy Spirit), who will perform the work and office of the Christ. And the Holy Spirit will do this by taking of the things of Christ and showing them to His people; by shedding abroad the love of the Father and of the Son into their hearts; by opening and applying the precious promises of the Gospel to them; by being a Spirit of adoption in them; and by abiding with them as the seal and pledge of their future glory. However, none of this means anything unless they first have revelation of the indwelling presence of the Spirit. It's the same with us!

Paul reiterates this point in Romans 8:9-11 where he speaks of the Spirit of God living in you, bringing life to your spirit; and because of His indwelling presence, bringing life to your mortal body as well. Romans 8:9-11, ***"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus Christ from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit, who lives in you."*** This function of the Holy Spirit is to literally bring "resurrection life" to your spirit within you. And as a result of this, bringing divine life to your physical body as well. But there is more to it... In 1 Corinthians 1:21-22, Paul writes, ***"...He anointed us, set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."*** When you received Jesus as your Lord, the Holy Spirit was deposited into your heart; not the physical organ, but into your inner man (your inner self). However, before the Holy Spirit could be deposited in your heart, God had to set His seal of ownership upon you. He needed to confirm that you belong to Him!

In 1 Corinthians 6:17 Paul says, ***"He who unites himself with the Lord is one with Him in spirit."*** Your spirit and the Holy Spirit are one! You are so inextricably intertwined with Him that you can't tell where He leaves off and you begin. How awesome is that? To be one with the resurrection power of the Almighty God! The same divine substance that flows through the Spirit of God is flowing in and through you (and me)! Therefore, being united with Him means that nothing is impossible! Why? Because His abilities and capabilities are limitless; His power and authority is supreme; His wisdom is infinite and unfathomable; and His great love is without measure. Wow! What never ceases to amaze me is how God chose frail earthen vessels in which to house His Spirit. He chose vessels of clay to become vessels of honour.

Another function of the Holy Spirit is as "sealant". In Ephesians 4:30, Paul writes, ***"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*** Over our hearts there is a sign that says, "sealed by Spirit of God." Someone once said that when he first read this verse he visualised it like the packaging that a new shirt comes in. It's sealed with a clear covering that protects it from dirt until opened. Likewise, the Holy Spirit sealed our hearts for God when we accepted Jesus as Lord. In 1 Corinthians 6:11 Paul puts it this way, ***"But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*** The Holy Spirit seals a heart that's been washed clean by the blood of Jesus! Your spirit man is then sanctified and legitimised by His presence. Consequently, you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

Whatever may be going on in your life right now, remember this, your inner man (the real you) abides in the presence of God without guilt or condemnation. Therefore, as a child of God you can clean the outer man as well, making him just like your inner man.

You do this by simply confessing your sins (1 John 1:9). That way, both spirit and soul will have the same characteristics - they take on the divine nature. That is the key to true prosperity. **"I wish above all else that you may prosper in all things and be in good health, even as your soul prospers"** (3 John 1:2). This verse implies that outward (physical and material) prosperity is to be measured against the prosperity of the soul. Therefore, when spirit and soul are both expressing the divine nature, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit that lives in us, true prosperity can manifest in all matters of life. What's more, our physical bodies will be prosper (be in good health) also.

Do you know that aside from spiritual and material prosperity, the Holy Spirit brings fruit when He comes into your heart? In Galatians 5:22 Paul literally says, **"What the Spirit brings is very different: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, trustfulness, gentleness and self control."** Most of us think that the Holy Spirit deposits some fruit seeds and that they have to be germinated and grow before they can produce any fruit. In other words, if you are an impatient sort, you will have to wait until patience grows in you. But why would the Holy Spirit bring immature fruit? The role of the Holy Spirit is to bring the fruit that's needed to change us from moment to moment! Our duty is to learn how to partake of that fruit. Therefore, throughout the day we need to be partaking of the fruit that is necessary to reflect the divine nature and help us to overcome our frailties. We need to become just like Jesus - being transformed into His exact likeness by His Spirit!

God has made it idiot proof! When the Holy Spirit was sent to abide with us and in us, and do exactly what Jesus would do if He was present, God intended that the Spirit's fruits would be easily accessed. Therefore, whatever fruit is needed to make you act just like Jesus, you can partake of right away (anytime and any place). You and the Holy Spirit are one!

What is His is yours too! Hallelujah! This is a covenant relationship - written in the blood of Jesus. Nothing can hinder you from doing the "works" of Jesus Christ. Now John 14:12 makes perfect sense... ***"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."*** Your inner man has the same divine nature; he was created from the same divine substance; and he is sealed in the same divine environment as the Spirit of God who dwells in you. Therefore, the Spirit of God who is living in you, who raised Jesus from the dead, will bring 'divine life' to your mortal body and this life can manifest the very same anointing that Jesus Christ had. As a result, you should be able to display the same awesome deeds of power and work the same miracles that Jesus did when He walked this earth.

Off course, Jesus was trying to comfort the disciples before His departure by telling them about the Holy Spirit and His role in their everyday lives; but in the context of the entire passage in John 14, He was also preparing them for ministry. The Christ wanted His ministry to carry on at the same intensity and success rate as before. He didn't want anything to change. Rather, He wanted things to get better! Hence, He could boldly declare that it was better for Him to go than to remain. This I believe, is the primary function of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

Yes, the Spirit came to draw alongside us and help us in every situation. However, if He is "another" (yet the very same) Comforter as Jesus, then surely He would not just minister to our own needs but to the needs of others through us. From this we can clearly see the role of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives and the need to engage with Him at every level. Our relationship with God's Spirit should not be a selfish one. We must be very aware of what it is that He wants to do because it's "as He wills" that the greatest deeds of power manifest. So let's all expect this to take place.