

John 15:26 – 16:15 ESV

## The Holy Spirit Is Our Helper!

Sunday, May 24, 2015 at 8:00 & 10:45 ✦ The Day of Pentecost

Our Monday Services Resume on June 1 at 7 PM

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: A helper can be a great blessing! Regarding the first man, the LORD God said: “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him” (Gen. 2:18 ESV). The Bible says that “Two are better than one... if they fall, one will lift up his fellow” (Ecc. 4:9-10 ESV). Even hamburger now has a helper!

Today we focus on the greatest Helper of all – *the promised Holy Spirit!* Jesus’ words recorded in John chapter 15 (note that chapters 13-17 occurred in the upper room on Holy Thursday) were spoken by Jesus 54 days *before* the Day of Pentecost.

1. **He Helps Us Know about Jesus:** Jesus said: <sup>26</sup> **“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning.”** //

- a. The source of the H.S.: Jesus said, “I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper” (14:16). Jesus also said: The H.S. “proceeds from the Father” and He, *Jesus Himself*, would send the H.S. Lenski put it this way: **“The Father’s giving is accomplished by the Son’s sending; the Son’s sending is accomplished by the Father’s giving”** (1067). So the sending of the H.S. involves *both the Father and the Son*.

- b. The work of the H.S. to bear witness about Jesus: That work included ✦the inspiration of what Jesus’ disciples would say when hauled before the authorities (Matt. 10:19), ✦the inspiration of the Holy Scriptures, ✦His work in and through the apostles, and ✦His work in and through all who believe in Jesus as their only Savior!

2. **He Helps Us Continue in Jesus:** *We cannot on our own!*

- a. Jesus said: (<sup>16:1</sup> “I have said all these things to you [that as the world hated and persecuted me, so it will hate and persecute you (15:18, 20)] to keep you from falling away [literally from being entrapped – like a door springing shut to catch an animal in a cage]. <sup>2</sup> They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God. <sup>3</sup> And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me. <sup>4</sup> But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”) // If I told you that following Jesus would be easy, you would be tempted to fall away when the going got tough. But now that we know it will be both ✦tough and ✦worthwhile (Rom. 8:18), we are thankful for the H.S. who will keep us in Jesus!
- b. <sup>4B</sup> **“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you** [that was a time when the hatred and persecution were directed to Jesus]. <sup>5</sup> **But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’** <sup>6</sup> **But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. // So the apostles had been with Jesus from the time of His baptism; *Jesus had taught them so much.* Now, within 24 hours, He would bear all sins and all punishment; then, *40 days later,* He would return to heaven. So, *with the apostles struggling with such things,* Jesus told them the advantage of His leaving: “...if I go, I will send him [the H.S.] to you.” So the Father gave His Son, the Son completed His saving work, and the H.S. is making the finished work of Jesus known to the world!

3. **He Helps the World Know the Saving Truth:** <sup>8</sup> **And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:** So the verb “convict” means to *legally declare someone to be guilty*, while the noun “convict” is *a guilty person who is serving his sentence of punishment.* The work of the H.S. is to declare the world to be guilty; in response some will repent 😊, while others will remain unrepentant – *not sorry and rejecting Jesus* – to the very end of their lives 😞. The H.S. does that convicting work through God’s Holy Word – written, spoken, etc.!
- a. <sup>9</sup> **concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;** // God declares that *all have sinned*, so all are convicted whether they admit it or not. The problem is that *many continue to reject Jesus* 😞!
- b. <sup>10</sup> **concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;** // The Son of God came to win our righteousness; then

returned to the Father. Some have received God’s gift 😊 but the world “*seeks to cover up its sin, to excuse it in some way... Righteousness is the state of the sinner whom God acquits; all other acquittals by men or by human organizations are useless*” (Lenski, 1084, 1085).

- c. <sup>11</sup> **concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.** // God wants the world to realize that its ruler, Satan, *has already been judged and condemned*; so those who continue to reject Jesus will also be condemned 😞.
4. **He Helps Us Know What Is Important:** <sup>12</sup> **“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.** <sup>13</sup> **When the Spirit of truth comes [which is what we are celebrating today], he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.** <sup>14</sup> **He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.** <sup>15</sup> **All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”** // So the H.S. ♦ moved Jesus’ followers to speak and write God’s truth, ♦ gave them the power to honor the Lord in their lives, and ♦ kept them in Christ to the very end!

**Conclusion:** Even today it is the H.S. who is powerfully working ➔ **through baptism** to unite us to Christ, ➔ **through the Word** to grow us in Christ, and ➔ **in us** to enable us to live for Christ! Let us be *aware of* and *thankful for* the powerful presence of the H.S. in our lives! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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