



“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you,” John 14:26.

Power for Today

Lesson Aim: To stimulate the believer to experience the full ministry of the Holy spirit in daily living.

L306. Date: October 1974. **Text:** John 14:16-26. **Topic:** Holy Spirit.

“The Comforter has come, The Comforter has come! The Holy Ghost from Heav'n, The Father's promise giv'n; O spread the tidings 'round, wherever man is found—The Comforter has come!”—F. Bottome.

It is true! Jesus promised, **“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth . . . for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you,”** John 14:16-17. Approximately two months passed, and the promise of Jesus was not yet fulfilled. The time came for His ascension to heaven, and still the “Comforter” had not come. Jesus had not forgotten His promise. He commanded the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they had received “the promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard of me,” Acts 1:4. They waited, and the promise was fulfilled.

The Holy Spirit is essential to the propagation of the Christian gospel. All spiritual progress is dependent upon Him. God's principle is, **“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts,”** Zechariah 4:6.

Approach today's study, as that of any passage of Holy Scripture, knowing that it can be understood only by the enlightenment of the Spirit (I Corinthians 2:9-14). Approach the study expecting a blessing. He is here to reveal God's truths to your willing heart and mind.

PRESENCE, 14:16

For three years, Jesus was with His little band of disciples. He lived with them day after day and week after week, but there came a day when He told His disciples that He was leaving them. They did not know where He was going, why He was leaving, nor whether He would return. Such uncertainty made their hearts heavy. They did not want Jesus to go. He encouraged them with a promise of “another Comforter” who would come to abide permanently with them.

Consider Jesus' promise of “another Comforter.” In the Greek language in which John wrote his Gospel, there were two words which he could have used for “another.” One means “another of the same kind,” and the other means “another of a different kind.” Which word did John use? He used the one meaning “another of the same kind.” The Holy Spirit, who would come to abide with believers, was just like the Lord Jesus—absolute deity. What a promise!

Jesus' promise mentioned a “Comforter.” The term calls to mind one who would speak words of assurance, comfort, and help to one in sorrow. The term means much more than that. “Comforter” (Greek, **parakletos**) means “one called alongside to help.” We might get the idea better, if we used the term, “Companion.” That is what the Holy Spirit is—the Companion of the Christian.

Jesus was the companion of the disciples during His earthly ministry, but He was limited in that He was in a human body. If He was in Bethlehem, He could not be in Jerusalem at the same moment. If He was in Galilee, he could not be in Judaea. With the spread of the Christian witness, a change was needed. Jesus needed to be with all believers, in all places, at all times. The coming of the Holy Spirit made that possible.

Jesus was on earth only a little over thirty-three years. His disciples were with Him only about three years. He promised a better arrangement. He promised that the Holy Spirit would come “that he may abide with you for ever.” There would be no termination of the Spirit's presence and ministry in believers. His presence would be unaffected by geography or time-- “forever!”

The Holy, Spirit is sometimes called, “the Spirit of Jesus” in the Bible. Though a different person of the Holy Trinity, the Spirit has been properly called Jesus’ “other self.” He promised, “**I will not leave you comfortless** (or, companionless orphans) **I will come to you,**” John 14:17. He comes and is present in the person of the third person of the Holy Trinity—the Holy Spirit.

When you received the Lord Jesus as personal Saviour, it was because

the Spirit convicted you of sin and called you to Him (John 16:8-11). The Spirit also worked the miracle of the new birth so as to effect salvation (John 3:5). Then He took up permanent residence with you and has remained with you without even momentary interruption since that time. God is with you. Take heart. You are never alone.

INDWELLING, 14:17

Examine the promise of Jesus: “... **the Spirit of truth . . . dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**” Observe, first, the time involved. At present, He “dwelleth with you.” That indicates that the Holy Spirit was in the world, active among men, before the day of Pentecost. The full significance of the grammar used shows that Jesus was saying, “The Spirit of truth is already dwelling with you.” That brings no surprise, for the Spirit was active in creation (Genesis 1:1-2), prophetic inspiration (Isaiah 61:1), conviction of sin (Genesis 6:3), and other ministries. The Spirit was already with the disciples when Jesus made the promise of the “Comforter.”

Jesus spoke in the future tense, also. He said, “The Spirit of truth is already with you and shall soon be in you.” At the time Jesus spoke, a change in the ministry of the Holy Spirit was soon to come. He would, by the direction of the Father, begin a new relationship to those who trusted Jesus.

Examine the prepositions Jesus used. At that time the Holy Spirit was already “with believers. His personal presence was already a reality. In the future time, the Holy Spirit would be “in” believers. The text indicates the blessed indwelling of the Holy Spirit in all who are saved.

The indwelling of the Spirit is universal among Christians (John 7:37-39). If one does not have the Spirit of Christ, it is because he has not been saved (Romans 8:9). Even the carnal Christian has the Spirit dwelling within.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit begins immediately upon conversion. He comes as a free gift of God's grace and is in no wise present as a consequence of a man's works. The Spirit is the Father's gift to the believer upon the Son's request. No Christian is exempt. If you are saved, the Holy Spirit lives within you.

The indwelling presence of God's Holy Spirit indicates His constant concern and ministry with us. “**And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us,**” I John 3:24. You are never alone in Christian service. He is always present to aid your prayers, strengthen your witness, enlighten your mind, and perform those varied

ministries which make yours a victorious Christian life. God loves you so much that He will not be apart from you for a single moment from the time of your conversion until you go to be with Him in heaven.

The Father repeatedly stated that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit is the divine guarantee (called “the earnest”) of full salvation. Check II Corinthians 1:22: **“Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”** God's guarantee abides with the believer until the resurrection of the body, which is the ultimate consummation of the salvation Jesus provided. Paul declared that the Holy Spirit “is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory,” Ephesians 1:14.

RELATIONSHIP, 14:18-24

God is a trinity. In His godhead there are three distinct persons whom we call Father, Son, and Spirit. God is also a unity. The three are of such essence that, though three, they are one. The concept of tri-unity is difficult for man to comprehend, but it is a Bible truth.

Do not think of God's dealings with man as that of three different Gods. Many consider that God the Father dealt with man during the Old Testament period, that God the Son dealt with man during the personal ministry of Jesus, and that God the Spirit deals with man in the present dispensation. Those were the primary manifestations of God in each period, but the Holy Trinity has dealt with man in each period of human history.

Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would be a Companion of the same nature and essence as was He. John 14 records the promise of the Spirit's indwelling. Jesus promised that it would begin after He had returned to the Father (Acts 1:4). The indwelling of the Holy Spirit did not mean that Jesus was totally absent from the Christian. He promised, **“I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you,”** verse 18. The presence of the Holy Spirit includes the presence of Jesus, the Son of God.

Jesus promised, **“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him,”** John 14:23. The indwelling includes not only the Holy Spirit, but also the Father and the Son.

Think of it this way. Jesus said the works he did were the works of the Father through Him (John 14:10). Peter preached, **“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good . . . for God was with him,”** Acts 10:38. One can see in the person of Jesus God the Father working through God the Son by the

anointing of God the Holy Spirit. All the trinity worked through the ministry of Jesus just as all the trinity indwells the believer through the presence of the Holy Spirit.

God is not departmentalized. He is One! That is why the Bible declares that you have everything when you have Christ. You are filled with God through your union with Christ (Colossians 2:9-10). Do not insult God by asking for more. You have Him. There is nothing more. By faith, claim the divine resource available to you through the presence of God living within you.

How can one be sure that the above statement is true? Read John 14:16-24. Note particularly the words of Jesus in verse 24, “**. . . the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me,**” You have God's own word, spoken by His only begotten Son, as assurance. What more could be required?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus. Wherever the Spirit dwells, God dwells in the fulness of the Holy Trinity. No wonder the coming of the Spirit to indwell was accompanied by a promise and a commission: “**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me . . .**” Acts 1:8.

INSTRUCTION, 14:25-26

Man needs to know more about God. Eternal life is but the personal knowledge and relationship with God (John 17:3). An abundant life is possible as believers know Him better and share His fellowship more intimately.

Jesus came into the world to reveal the Father. So perfectly did He perform that ministry that He could say, “**He that hath seen me hath seen the Father . . . I am in the Father, and the Father in me . . .**” John 14:9-10. How limited would be our understanding of God, if Jesus had not come to reveal Him.

There was a limitation to Jesus' teaching. He was limited geographically to Palestine. He was limited numerically to His disciples and some occasional hearers. He was limited chronologically to the brief years of His public ministry. He was limited by the intellectual capacity of His hearers; one can teach no more than the hearer can comprehend.

Jesus declared that His teaching would not cease when He ascended back to the Father. He assured the disciples, “**But the Comforter . . . shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance**

whatsoever I have said unto you,” verse 26. The promise is threefold. (1) The Holy Spirit is a teacher of believers. (2) The instruction by the Spirit is complete—“all things.” (3) The Spirit's teaching is based upon the teachings of Jesus while He was upon earth— “whatsoever I have said unto you.” We need further instruction. God provides it through the Holy Spirit.

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you,”
John 16:12-14.

The blessed day promised by the Lord Jesus is here. The Holy Spirit indwells each believer right now. God the Father and God the Son are personally present with each believer at each moment in the person of God the Holy Spirit.

The believer has the opportunity of learning of the greatest subject—God—with the aid of the greatest teacher—the Holy Spirit. He who inspired the Holy Scripture is now living within you to interpret them to you and teach you their truths.

Jesus emptied Himself in the incarnation and ministered upon earth for three years in the power of the Spirit with whom the Father had anointed Him. The same Spirit resides in you to empower your testimony for Christ and enable you to live godly in a wicked world.

Thank God for the blessed present ministry of the Holy Spirit.
“Quench not the Spirit,” I Thessalonians 5:19.

Questions

1. What is the Holy Trinity?
2. How is the trinity manifested in John 14:16, 17?
3. In what sense is the Spirit a “Comforter”?
4. What does the Spirit's indwelling mean to you?
5. What does John 7:37-39 mean to you?
6. How is the Spirit the earnest of our salvation?
7. How was the Holy Trinity present in the person of Jesus?
8. How can you know the Spirit's teaching in your life?
9. How can you realize the promise of Acts 1:8?
10. How can you obey I Thessalonians 5:19?

