

“THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

John 14:16-18

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

There are only three great Revelations in the Bible:

- The Revelation of the Person and work of God the Father;
- The Revelation of the Person and work of God The Son;
- The Revelation of the Person and work of God The Holy Spirit.

It is interesting to note that the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the very first verses of the Bible and in the very last verses of the Bible. In Gen. 1:2 *“The Spirit of God moved upon the waters...”*; And in Rev. 22:17 *“The Spirit .. says come....”* In Genesis we see the Holy Spirit preparing earth for the habitation of humans and in the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ we see the Holy Spirit preparing humans for the habitation of heaven!

We know something about the work of God the Father and the work of God The Son; however, I believe that the Person of the Trinity, about which the average Christian knows the least, is the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, and yet He is equally as important as the other two members of the holy Trinity.

Perhaps all of us will learn more about the Holy Spirit as we focus upon Jesus’ words recorded in John chapter fourteen. The location in which He spoke these words was the Upper Room; the listeners were His disciples, minus Judas who had left the room to betray Jesus; and the reason Jesus said what He said was that He was preparing the disciples for His departure to return to heaven.

Let us examine this tremendous truth as we consider the subject “The Promise Of The Holy Spirit.” There will be three considerations: the Revelation of The Holy Spirit’s Coming; the Reasons for The Holy Spirit’s Coming and The Residency of The Holy Spirit.

THE INITIAL REVELATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT’S COMING

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper.” (John 14:16) *“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 depart, I will send Him to you.”* (John 16:7))

Look closely at what Jesus said in these verses:

The Prayer That Jesus Prayed.

“And I will pray the Father...” (John 14:16) The Holy Spirit came as a result of Jesus prayer. There are those who teach that we must pray for the Holy Spirit. Not so! There is no teaching in the Bible that we are to pray for the Holy Spirit to come into us! Even at Pentecost the Holy Spirit did not come because they prayed – He came in answer to Jesus prayer! The disciples

were to wait in Upper Room: “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me.” (Acts 1:4) Jesus gave the promise of the Holy Spirit and they were to simply wait for the fulfillment of that promise. They perhaps had a worship service, singing and praying, but the Holy Spirit did not come because they prayed but because Jesus had promised that He would come.

The Promises That Jesus Made.

There are actually 3 promises in these verses concerning the Holy Spirit’s coming to aid them:

- Promise #1 - *“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper...”* (John 14:16)
- Promise #2 - *“if I depart, I will send Him to you.”* (Jn. 16:7)
- Promise #3 – *“I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”* (John 14:18)

The fourteenth chapter of John’s Gospel opens with the familiar words, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” (vs.1-4)

The disciples were noticeably disturbed at the announcement of His soon departure, especially Thomas who said, “We do not know where you are going; and how can we know the way?” (v.5) Then Jesus assured them that He would be with them in another dimension. No longer would He be with them in physical form but in the Person of His Spirit. This is how He explained it: “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:16-18)

He repeated the promise in John 16: “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 depart, I will send Him to you.” (v.7) In both passages Jesus promises to substitute His visible, physical presence with His invisible “Spirit” presence. Do not miss the words: “I will send Him to you” (John 16:7) and “I will come to you.” (John 14:18) Here He clearly promises that His Spirit, the “Spirit of Christ” (I Peter 1:11) would be with them.

Jesus’ prayer and Jesus’ promises were fulfilled. Here we have the Initial Revelation concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Let us continue by considering, secondly,

THE INDISPENSABLE REASONS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT’S COMING

There are several reasons for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Seven are mentioned in John chapters 14, 15 & 16. Let us look at them:

He Comes To Teach

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” (John 14:26) When Jesus said that the Holy Spirit “will teach you all things” we are to understand the statement in the context of the complete sentence. He does not mean that the Holy Spirit will teach us geometry, algebra, psychology, biology, etc. The sentence is self-explanatory concluding with: “all things that I said to you.” As we have noted, the Holy Spirit is the “Spirit of Christ” (I Peter 1:11). What better Teacher could we possibly have to tell and teach us the things of Christ?

He comes to Help us. (All underlining mine)

“*It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you.*” (John 16:7) The Greek word translated “Helper” in the NKJV is translated “Comforter” in the KJV and “Counselor” in the NIV.

The Greek word is: “parakletos” and literally means “one called to one's side to counsel. It was used in a court of justice to denote a legal assistant, counsel for the defense, an advocate; one who pleads another's cause; an intercessor, helper, counselor, comforter.” The Holy Spirit fulfills all those functions and more.

He Comes To Testify.

“*But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father He will testify of Me.*” (John 15:26)

He Comes To Convict.

“*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*” (John 16:8-9)

He Comes To Guide.

“*When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth;*” (John 16:13)

He Comes To Show Future.

“*He will tell you what is yet to come.*” (John 16:13)

He Comes To Glorify Jesus.

“*He will glorify me*” (John 16:14)

Bible College students often hear the cliché: “The Holy Spirit makes Christ dearer; He makes heaven nearer and He makes the Word of God clearer.” His ministry is indispensable to us! That is why, if we are truly born again, we need to know Him better.

I must not close this initial study on the Holy Spirit without asking and answering the question: “Where is the Holy Spirit?” Think with me about the answer to that question as we examine:

THE INTERNAL RESIDENCY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Pentecost was not the first coming of the Holy Spirit. He is seen in the first verses in Genesis and He was active throughout the Old Testament period. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit

came “upon” certain ones to empower them for service. Many times we read that the “Spirit of God came upon.....” certain ones to accomplish exploits for God. Among these persons are Samson, Gideon, David, etc. The Holy Spirit did not permanently “indwell” Old Testament believers as He does New Testament believers today. He “empowered” but He did not “indwell.” For that reason David could pray *“take not your Holy Spirit from me.”* (Psalm 51:11) Biblically taught believers do not pray that prayer today. Why?

Let us read carefully and thoughtfully Jesus’ words in John 14:17 - *“He dwells with you and will be in you.”* This is a very important revelation from Jesus about the Holy Spirit. Read it again: “He dwells **with you** and shall be **in you**.” There is a great difference between the Holy Spirit being “with” or coming “upon” a person and coming “into” a person. In John 7 Jesus promised the Holy Spirit to His disciples saying, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” (John 7:38,39)

At this point in Jesus earthly ministry the Holy Spirit “was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” But He said when the Holy Spirit would be given to a follower of His, in a yet future time, “out of” that person would flow the evidences of life. Notice the words “out of....” Before the Spirit could “flow out” He had to “flow in”! When did the New Testament believers experience the “inflowing” of the Holy spirit?

In Acts 2 is the account of the “down-coming” and the “incoming” of the Holy Spirit: “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.”

This was a dramatic scene and signaled a change in the ministry of the Holy Spirit from that which we see in the Old Testament. Note that the Holy Spirit appeared as “fire”; where was the “fire”? *“Upon* each of them”! But not for long because immediately we read, “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” First “upon” them and then “filled” or within them! First the “down-coming” and then the “incoming.”

From now on the Holy Spirit would no longer “come upon” believers as He did in Old Testament times, but He would “indwell” children of God. He would take up residency within every one born into God’s family. That is why New Testament believers cannot biblically pray the prayer that David prayed: *“take not your Holy Spirit from me.”* The Holy Spirit permanently indwells us.

ILLUST. My family and I have enjoyed recreational boating. I have had both sail boats and power boats. A sail boat and an engine driven boat depend upon different propulsion systems. The sailing vessel depends upon power coming upon it; the engine driven boat has a power source within it. Prior to Pentecost the Holy Spirit empowered for service from without; after Pentecost, the Holy Spirit empowers from within!

At this point questions are in order: "How and when does the Holy Spirit take up residency in us? The answer is in 3 parts:

First, The Holy Spirit Is A Gift. (All underlining mine)

John 7:39 - "*the Holy Spirit was not yet given.*"

John. 14:16 - "*I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper.*"

Acts 2:38 - Peter said, "*Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

We do not have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us because we prayed or because we fast or because we have some minister lay his hands upon us. The Holy Spirit is a gift.

Second, Christ Believed Is The Holy Spirit Received.

John 7:37,38 "*On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*"

We cannot receive Jesus and not receive the Holy Spirit. We cannot receive the Holy Spirit unless and until we receive Jesus. He is the Spirit of Christ.

Third, The Gift Of The Holy Spirit Is Eternal.

John 14:16 "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.*" (All underlining is mine.)

The Holy Spirit permanently resides in those who have received Jesus Christ and Savior. Are we aware of the presence of the heavenly guest?

SUMMATION

We will have more to say about this subject matter in later studies in this series. What have we seen in this introductory study?

1. The **Revelation** of the Holy Spirit's coming – He came because of Jesus' promise;
2. The **Reasons** for the Holy Spirit's coming - To teach, help, testify, convict, guide, show the things of Christ and glorify Him;
3. The **Residency** of the Holy Spirit is a gift; this gift is received when Christ is believed; The Gift is eternal.

CONCLUSION

Dr. H.A. Ironside was Pastor of Moody Church in Chicago when I became a student at the Moody Bible Institute there, many years ago. He told this story:

"A certain young man started life in poverty but later became prosperous. He was ashamed of his childhood home and his old fashioned mother. He built a beautiful new home in a well-to-do neighborhood and made a little room in the attic for his mother to live.

When he had his fashionable friends in he would insist that his mother stay hidden away in the attic. Finally his wife said, "This is not right that your mother be hidden away in the attic. I'll not stand for it any longer. We will not treat her like that. Your mother is to come down and have the run of the house and enjoy herself to the fullest degree."

The application of the story is this: God lives in each of His children in the Person of His Spirit. Our physical body is "the Temple of the Holy Spirit." (I Cor.6:19) Is He hidden away in the attic or does He live in every area of our lives? As a believer you possess Him but does He possess you?

In the next study on the Holy Spirit I will answer the question, "Who Is the Holy Spirit?"

"If any one has not the Spirit of Christ he is none of his." (Romans 8:9)

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