

## THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

John 14:15-21 (NIV)

August 21 & 22, 2021 Mr. Ken King

### Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

<sup>15</sup>“If you love me, keep my commands. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever— <sup>17</sup> the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. <sup>18</sup> I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. <sup>19</sup> Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. <sup>21</sup> Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

By now I am guessing you have a pretty good idea the message I will be sharing today will be relating the Holy Spirit. So, if you would take just a minute to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and join us in worship.

I would like you to join me by putting yourself in the position of the disciples. Today’s text is part of what we know as the last supper event.

Let’s see if we can put ourselves in the place and mindset of the disciples. There are twelve of us sitting around the table having dinner with the leader of our group, Jesus. Probably talking about some miracles or good times we had. After all that was a pretty impressive parade into the city, with everyone waving palm branches and stuff.

Then Jesus, the guy we have been following and working with for the past three years starts doing some really strange things. First, he washes our feet, then he breaks some bread and says it’s his body, then some wine, that is his blood. Then he tells us someone is going to betray him, and He is going to die and leave us behind.

Now at this point I am not sure about you, but I am starting to wonder if this is what we signed up for. We have been good followers, but I really have not had to do too much. We have seen some cools stuff, feeding 5000 people, raising someone from the dead, and some other miracles that have been performed. BUT: I am not sure what he is expecting of me but this might be the end of the line. It sounded like he’s leaving us and I am going to be all alone. Not too sure what where we are going from here or the options are. And then he

says something that kind of throws me for even a bigger loop. He says that GOD is going to send the true spirit, a COUNSELOR, that's going to help us make it through some tough times and continue his work.

Well I guess that is reassuring, but I am not sure what that means, but He isn't going to leave us as orphans. But I am not clear on the rest of the stuff. You and the Father (God) are the same. GOT THAT. The world won't see me, you will. AND you are in me and I am in you. Kind of confusing.

Have you ever been at this point in your life?

A couple of things we should know about the Holy Spirit. First, He is the Third Person of the Trinity - "The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit." And the Holy Spirit has been around since the creation in Genesis it says "the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters" (Genesis 1:2).

Second, Jesus states, "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever - the Spirit of truth"

(John 14:15)

**Counselor** combines the ideas of comfort and counsel, knowledge and wisdom.

I was having a hard time understanding the concept of the Trinity and my pastor asked me why: I couldn't understand how you could be all three. He explained the water example: Water if frozen is solid, water is a liquid, and water as steam is a gas. But it is still Water.

Jesus' ministry on earth was to teach the things of the Father. He explained the law, showed people their sin, and brought comfort to those who believed. The role of the Spirit in us is to actively do the work of Christ.

When we accept Jesus our Lord, and Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit. You don't have to experience earth shaking "feelings" or emotions, you don't have to jump, shout, cry, roll on the floor, or have any such outward displays of physical emotions to experience the Holy Spirit.

**The Holy Spirit is our direct line** to GOD, through His teachings He directs us to obey and trust Him and to put all our cares on Him because He is greater than any problem. We develop greater reliance on the Lord, and less on human wisdom or our own abilities.

**The Holy Spirit helps us to know God.** He helps us understand the things of God in our hearts in order

to see God and His ways more clearly. That's when we begin to understand how that knowledge will help us in our daily walk.

**The Holy Spirit helps us think like God.** Our priorities change. Before Christ, it was all about me, what I could do, what I wanted, what I thought was best. We don't belong to ourselves anymore; we belong to God. We become better because God's Spirit is a superior influence in our life.

**The Holy Spirit gives wisdom beyond our natural abilities,** as we learn to listen to Him. If we allow ourselves to be totally immersed in God, then we can do powerful things in this world.

**The Holy Spirit enlightens** us with knowledge of God, the Love of Christ, and gives us gifts to make miracles happen.

**The Holy Spirit is our comforter,** He gives us strength to overcome the tough times we have.

**The Holy Spirit helps us** guides us in how to pray and what to pray for.

**The Holy Spirit help us see God's purpose for our life.** Receiving the Holy Spirit helps us to be everything that God wants us to be, and not miss out on the blessings he wants to give us. God has called each of us to follow Him and has given us a purpose and a hope.

**The Holy Spirit will not leave us alone.** The Holy Spirit gathers us into this community. We are not only created to be in a relationship with God, we are created to be in relationships to others. Part of coming to worship is to experience the power of the Holy Spirit. We study the WORD, share the elements, share our sorrows and celebrate our joys together. It is in community we are lifted up when we're beaten down, and rejoice in our blessings.

The power of the Holy Spirit – experience it when you ask and the presence is there.

I remember being in Haiti on one of our mission trips. As I got off the bus the senior pastor missionary told me I was going to give the devotion at the Thursday night community devotional and spiritual get together. It sounded like something I didn't want to do. As a matter of fact, I prayed for three days on something to happen so I didn't have to do the devotions.

That week there was another group, a group of medical people that were using the trip for training for Doctors without Borders, at the mission and they were always late because of their medical outreach. The day

of I was supposed to share the message, I was asked to drive the truck into the village and help the team. Seemed like a win for me. Prayers Answerer. I was sure they would drag things out, we would get back too late for the community worship and someone else would take care of it. As we pulled in the compound, an hour late. My prayers had been answered. Well, it did, the service was going on as we passed the group on the way back to the compound.

When I got out of the truck the pastor was there waiting and told me the people were waiting to hear the message. Now we had about a 10-minute walk to the group, and some of our church group was already gathered there. I sat down and said to a couple of my fellow missionary friends, and said pray for the Holy Spirit to give me something to say. I am not ready. As we sang the next song a little old Haitian lady brought out a lamp with a reflector on it and it lit up the whole area. As my friend leaned over and said “the Holy Spirit is here,” I was given the message to share. You are a reflection of the light God sent, Jesus was our example and he is reflected through us, and is amplified for the world to see the way out of darkness, trials and temptations and gives us the strength that we need.

That same week one of the Nurses in the Medical group came down with a high fever and was so sick that she wasn't able to travel with the group. She stayed in the cabin, took medication, and was unable to eat. We had finished our work that morning and one of the missionaries suggested we go to the cabin and pray for her. We knocked on the door and asked if we could come in, she said yes, we put our hands on her and prayed that the fever would leave. It was between 3 and 5 minutes, and each of us felt the heat pass through our hands as the fever left her. She was amazed at how fast this miracle had happened. I have to admit, so was I. I had never experienced the Holy Spirit working like that. She joined us for lunch and that evening share with the group the power of Prayer and the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever felt abandon and that God has let you down or wasn't there?

There is a poem, *Footprints in the Sand*, by Mary Fishback Powers. It goes like this:

“One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life, there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me.'

He whispered, 'My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.'"

That poem speaks directly to our unique relationship with God. Our faith in God does not exempt us from experiencing hardship and sadness. The reality is that we all go through ups and downs in our lives. Sometimes God walks beside us, and other times He must carry us.

When times are good, we are quick to thank God for his kindness. When they are bad or we are having a tough time, do we call on the Holy Spirit for help? Or do we feel like an orphan.

When times are tough, we need to pray for God's guidance. The counselor will simply put His arm around us and give us the strength to carry on.

Every single one of you has important role to play with the gifts the Spirit has given you. Yes, we are enlightened with gifts so that the body of Christ, the community of all Christians may be built up until that day when we see Christ face-to-face.

Walking in the Spirit requires a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We change our focus from I and me to functioning the way God and Jesus would.

Are you willing to let the Holy Spirit take charge in your life?

LET US PRAY: Come Holy Spirit – fill us to overflowing. You are the great stress reliver, help us through sickness and illness, death, job loss, divorce and martial challenges. Have your own way with me! Live in us, teaches us, guide us, counsel us, help us bring glory to you, remind us of your teachings and give us deep and lasting peace. AMEN