

Peace I Leave  
March 26, 2023  
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John 14:16-27 (ESV)

Did you teach your kids to drive? Was it your spouse, both of you, or did you rely on a trained driving instructor? Sooner or later they had to solo without you in the car. Imagine an app in the car that would remind them how to drive safely as a wise instructor would. Sort of like a GPS that gives directions this app would give reminders like an instructor sitting right beside them. The catch is the app wouldn't drive the car for them (at least not yet) they would have to choose to listen and act on the instruction.

This imaginary app might give the parent more peace of mind, it might give the young driver peace of mind, or they might just turn it off and ignore the instructor.

For three years Jesus had been teaching his closest disciples how to navigate doing His will and sharing His message in a hostile world. Now it was time for Him to go back to Heaven and they were dismayed, disturbed, and disheartened. Jesus said, "Don't be troubled; just trust (John 14:1)" Now He explained with more detail His supernatural plan to give them perfect peace and strength.

The point: If we've trusted Christ as Savior and Lord He has given us the gift of eternal life but He has also given us the gift of His own Spirit to live inside us. Sadly, some Christ-followers fail to unwrap and enjoy the amazing gift of His constant presence, strength, and guidance and the perfect peace His Holy Spirit brings.

**16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, **17** even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. **18** "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. **19** Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. **20** In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. **21** Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." **22** Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" **23** Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. **25** "These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. **26** 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 that I have said to you. **27**

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

- As we continue our study in what is known as the Upper Room Discourse we will have two lessons on the role of the Holy Spirit.
- The Spirit has been described as advocate, reminder, teacher, and the source of God's supernatural peace. Most translations call Him Helper.
- When our grandson Knox was just beginning to talk he would ask for help by asking, "Help you? Help you?" Before long, when we would ask if he needed help he would instead say, "No, I got it!" That's a positive thing for a child to learn independence. It's a bad response for a follower of Christ.
- We may think we've "got it" but that's only an illusion. We need the Helper!
- Words matter in Bible Study and verse sixteen contains an important one.
- Jesus promised to ask God the Father to give us a "helper" forever.
- The Greek word is **paraklētōs**, *par-ak'-lay-tos*;<sup>i</sup> the biblical term is **PARACLETE**...literally meaning "called beside or alongside to help."<sup>ii</sup>
- Wiersbe writes: "The Holy Spirit does not work instead of us, or in spite of us, but in us and through us."<sup>iii</sup>
- The King James renders paraclete as "comforter."
- R.C. Sproul: "Comforter,"...is a misleading word choice in our day. We know that the Holy Spirit does console us in times of pain and adversity...the word comfort came from two Latin words that meant "with strength." Thus, a comforter was someone who came to strengthen you. It wasn't the one who came to wipe your tears after the battle; it was the one who came to give you strength for the battle."<sup>iv</sup>
- "Counselor" isn't like a therapist but more like a lawyer in court.
- Jesus said He was asking for "another" Counselor/Advocate like Himself.
- In 1 John 2:1 the apostle said, "if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."<sup>v</sup> Jesus is pleading our case!
- J.I. Packer: "Jesus, the original Paraclete, continues his ministry to mankind through the work of the second Paraclete."<sup>vi</sup>
- This other Advocate is just like Jesus because He is the Spirit of Christ.
- The NLT describes Him as, "The Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth."
- Verse 17 says the unsaved "world" isn't looking for the Spirit and won't recognize Him, but the saved will. He only indwells followers of Christ.
- Verse 18 is poignant: "I will not leave you as orphans." I was "orphaned" on my 50<sup>th</sup> birthday when my mother went to Heaven. In her seventies she used to say, "I wish I could ask my mother some questions."
- The disciples had drawn their knowledge, power, and peace from Jesus and now He would physically be leaving them but He promised His followers we will never be alone because His Spirit lives in us.
- Jump to verses 25 and 26. Here Jesus explains how the Holy Spirit works: "...he will teach you...and...remind you of everything I have told you."<sup>vii</sup>
- It's clear how this worked for the disciples. "Remember, Jesus said..."

- How does the Holy Spirit (Spirit of truth) do this for us today? How can you tell if the voice in your head is the Holy Spirit or if it's just your own voice?
- The Holy Spirit will never contradict the truth of scripture. Any idea that contradicts scripture is (as Steve Brown would say) *"from the pit of hell and it smells like smoke!"*
- Time in God's word is crucial because we can't be reminded of what we have not heard, read, memorized, or meditated on (chewed on.) That speaks to the importance of personal Bible study and memorization.
- Jesus said His Spirit is a reminder and the ULTIMATE teacher.
- **1 Corinthians 2:13–14 (ESV) — 13** And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. **14** The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.
- We need surrendered teachers and preachers but we won't really understand the truth of God's word unless the Holy Spirit is our teacher.
- This is why we quote Psalm 119:18 every Sunday! *"Open my eyes..."*
- The Holy Spirit does both the teaching and reminding but Christ-followers are not to just store up knowledge we must ACT on it.
- What did James say about hearing and doing? **James 1:25** - But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
- Let's talk about hearing the Spirit clearly. When you're on your cell phone do you ever say: *"You're breaking up! I can't hear you?"* What causes interference in hearing the Holy Spirit's voice clearly?
- We began today in verse sixteen. What did Jesus say in verse 15?
- *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*
- Then He repeated this concept in verses 23 and 24:
- **23** Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. **24** Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.
- Righteous living is only produced by the Holy Spirit. Charles Stanley: *"As believers, our potential for righteous living is in direct proportion to our willingness to allow the Holy Spirit to produce His fruit through us."*<sup>viii</sup>
- **Ezekiel 36:26–27 (ESV) — 26** And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. **27** And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.
- He gave His Spirit to teach us and remind us, so we can trust and obey.
- If you hear the Spirit telling you to violate God's word – you heard wrong.
- We have one more important "gift" we haven't unwrapped in verse 27.
- Reading in the NLT: **27** "I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be troubled or afraid.

- When we trust Christ as Savior He gives us peace WITH God. I am no longer God's enemy. **Romans 5:1** - Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Jesus also bequeathed to His followers the supernatural peace OF GOD.
- He said, *"Don't be troubled or fearful"* so this is peace of mind.
- He said it is *"peace the world cannot give"* - How does the unsaved world define peace of mind? What do they think will bring them peace?
- If you are a Seinfeld fan you'll recall the words: *"Serenity NOW!"* Like George's father, the world is trying to manufacture peace.
- The peace of God is the concept of Shalom. *"[S]halom is [translated] 'completeness,' 'wholeness,' 'well-being,' or 'welfare and peace' ...this peace is more than the mere absence of war or strife. It describes a peace that ...features love, righteousness, calmness, political and moral uprightness and much more. It is a word reserved for those who walk with God in a positive relationship. The wicked person, according to Isaiah, does not and cannot know the way of peace (59:8)"<sup>x</sup>*
- Illustration: Jack Dawson's painting "Peace in the Midst of the Storm." <https://jackdawson.com/bgshop/product-category/gallery/peace-in-the-midst-of-the-storm/>
- Wiersbe: *"Unsaved people enjoy peace when there is an absence of trouble; Christians enjoy peace in spite of trials because of the presence of power, the Holy Spirit."<sup>x</sup>*
- The Spirit brings *"the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding"*, to guard our "hearts and minds" if we are *"in Christ Jesus."<sup>i</sup>*
- How can I access that peace? How can I be as serene as that little bird in the midst of the storm? Paul said if we are "in Christ Jesus" just ask and the Spirit of God will be the channel for this supernatural peace of God.

#### So, What's the Takeaway?

- If we've trusted Christ as Savior and Lord He has given us BOTH the gift of eternal life and the gift of His own Spirit to live inside us.
- We need to unwrap and enjoy this amazing gift of His constant presence, strength, and guidance and the perfect peace His Holy Spirit brings.
- If you're saved, the Holy Spirit is already in your heart speaking to you.
- This week let's imagine a big "help wanted" sign hanging around our necks. Instead of thinking "I got it" let's be like little Knox and pray, *"Help you? Help you?"*
- Let's ask for the guidance and peace that is awaiting us because we have the Spirit of Christ living in us.

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<sup>i</sup> Strong, J. (2009). [\*A Concise Dictionary of the Words in the Greek Testament and The Hebrew Bible\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 55). Bellingham, WA: Logos Bible Software.

<sup>ii</sup> Strong, T. (2003). [\*Paraclete\*](#). In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 1247). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

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- <sup>iii</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 352). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- <sup>iv</sup> R. C. Sproul. John (St. Andrew's Expository Commentary) (Kindle Location 3618). Kindle Edition.
- <sup>v</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (1 Jn 2:1). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.
- <sup>vi</sup> Baker Books – J.I. Packer – Keeping in Step With The Spirit 1984
- <sup>vii</sup> Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [\*Holy Bible: New Living Translation\*](#) (Jn 14:26). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.
- <sup>viii</sup> The Wonderful Spirit Filled Life – Charles Stanley – Thomas Nelson 1992
- <sup>ix</sup> Carpenter, E. E., & Comfort, P. W. (2000). In [\*Holman treasury of key Bible words: 200 Greek and 200 Hebrew words defined and explained\*](#) (p. 135). Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers.
- <sup>x</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [\*The Bible exposition commentary\*](#) (Vol. 1, p. 354). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.
- <sup>xi</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Php 4:7). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.