

## John 14:16-20

**God the Holy Spirit** Chapters 14-16 of the gospel according to John are the longest, consecutive, and detailed verses about God the Holy Spirit in the entire Bible.

### **Verse 16 Another Helper**

- We see the inner working within the Trinity as the Father and the Son have a part in the sending of the Holy Spirit as the Son asks and the Father sends.
- Jesus states that God the Holy Spirit is “another” Helper.
  - Helper in Greek is the word parakleto or parakletos which in English translates to paraclete.
  - “Para” means alongside or beside and kletos means “to call.” Paraclete means to call to one’s side.
  - In antiquity a paraclete was like a defense attorney that someone who was in legal trouble would call to stand by their side and advocate for them.
  - The Holy Spirit is another Helper which indicates that Jesus is the original paraclete.
  - In our fallen state, we are in trouble with the Law as we are guilty of breaking God’s Law. When we place faith in Jesus and call unto Him, He comes to our side and stands in our defense as He intercedes for His people to the Father forever!
    - **1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an <sup>[a]</sup>Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;
    - **Romans 8:33-34** Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; <sup>34</sup> who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was <sup>[a]</sup>raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.
- The Holy Spirit is another Helper or Paraclete who takes the primary role in helping and guiding the believers through this life in numerous ways after Jesus returns to the Father.
- Christ continues to be with His sheep by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit which He asks the Father to send.
  - The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Christ.
    - **Romans 8:9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.
- The Holy Spirit is God and He lives forever and will forever be with the elect of God. This speaks to the eternal security one has in their salvation as the Holy Spirit indwells and seals all believers when they believe for an eternal inheritance.

### **A ceremony of succession**

Why did the most exhaustive teaching on God the Holy Spirit occur with Jesus in the upper room with His death imminent? One view is that what was happening in the upper room paralleled what happened in antiquity when there was a change in leadership. There are examples of a change in leadership in the Old Testament. Moses passed leadership to Joshua before he died, Elijah passed the mantle to Elisha before he died so that the work could continue. Perhaps it could be that moments before Jesus is to die that He begins to explain the roles of the Holy Spirit that will occur when He leaves and the Spirit is poured out on Pentecost. Jesus the original paraclete is passing over the leadership of the Church to the Holy Spirit who would now be the Paraclete.

### **Verse 17**

- The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth who reveals and teaches the truth to all who belong to God.
- The Holy Spirit was the One who inspired the Bible and is the One who brings the truth of Scriptures alive in our hearts. He points to the Word which is truth (**John 17:17**) and reveals the truth within the Word.

- No one can understand or come to know the truth of God without the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth.
  - **1 Corinthians 2:10-16** For to us God revealed *them* through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, <sup>13</sup>which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, <sup>[b]</sup>combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.<sup>14</sup> But <sup>[c]</sup>a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually <sup>[d]</sup>appraised. <sup>15</sup>But he who is spiritual appraises all things, yet he himself is appraised by no one. <sup>16</sup>For who has known the mind of the Lord, that he will instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ.

### **Verses 18-20**

- After His death, He would not leave them as orphans, but would come to them. After His death and resurrection, He would appear to them as well as hundreds of people after His resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:6**). It would be that resurrection that would be the ultimate proof that Jesus was who He said He was as being sent from the Father. (**Acts 17:30-31**). As a result of His resurrection, all that believe will live as they are in union with His resurrection (**Romans 6:4-5**) (**1 Corinthians 15:20-23**), (**1 Peter 1:3**).
- There is no mention that He appeared to anyone that was not a believer.
- He would also come to them and all His children as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and the indwelling of all the believers. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ (**Romans 8:9**) and therefore Christ is always with His children.
- The ultimate fulfillment of Jesus coming to them, and all His children is when He returns on the Last Day to personally receive them (**John 14:3**).

We are all guilty of breaking the law of God and needing someone to be our advocate before the eternal God. Jesus is our paraclete who when called upon, stands at our side and advocates in our behalf before the Father as He is the original Paraclete. When He left earth and ascended to the Father, He did not leave us alone, but rather sent another Paraclete to guide us, teach us, strengthen us, and sanctification which is God the Holy Spirit. As a result of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ, He has come to us and is always with us. We are not orphans, but rather sons of God and are awaiting the day Christ will come to all His children to forever dwell with them!