

IN THE BEGGINNING WAS THE
WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH
GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD.

the gospel of

JOHN

John 14:15-26

Introduction

There are three main Scriptures that deal with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit at length.

1. The Identity of the Holy Spirit or who He is (John 14:15-26).
2. The Work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-15).
3. The Power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:1-17).

Jesus is teaching His disciples the major subjects they need to grasp before His death. He is equipping them with truths that will help them (and us) through the trials they are to face.

The greatest help the believers are to receive is the very presence of God Himself in the Person of the Holy Spirit. In this passage Jesus reveals who the Holy Spirit is.

John 14:15-17

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 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.

Love and Obedience

John 14:15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

Jesus states an important truth here. If a person loves Jesus, he will keep the commandments of Jesus. Note two things.

1. Obedience is not optional for believers. Jesus stated a simple fact that must be clearly understood: "If you love me you will keep my commandments." This is the correct translation. Jesus is not giving an optional commandment, "If you love me, [then, optional] keep my commandments." He is saying that the man who truly loves Him will keep His commandments.

Love and Obedience

John 14:15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

2. What it means to love Jesus must be clearly understood.
 - a. To love Jesus is not an emotional thing. It involves emotions, but it is not based upon emotions. It also is not feelings. It is not an emotional love that changes with feelings.
 - b. To love Jesus is not a rational or mental commitment. Of course it involves the mind, but it is not just deciding that Jesus is the Son of God and adopting His teachings and morality as one's standard in life. It is not just living by His teachings and doing the best a person can. It is not a matter of the mind alone, not a matter of disciplining one's life to keep the law and its rules and regulations.

Love and Obedience

John 14:15

“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

c. To love Jesus is a matter of the heart and of the spirit. The heart is the seat of man's affection and will (devotion). To love Jesus means that a man focuses his heart and affections and will (devotion) upon God by giving and receiving the love of God. It means that a man gives all he is and has to Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit: The Other Helper

John 14:16

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the other Helper. Note four points.

The Holy Spirit is the Helper or Comforter. It means “one who is called alongside to help”. One should also note the term “another”. In Greek there are two words that are translated “another”. One means “another” but of a different kind (apples and oranges). The one used here means “another” of the same kind or essence (apple and another apple). Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is of the same essence as He is. Jesus is God, therefore the Holy Spirit is also God!

The Holy Spirit: The Other Helper

John 14:16

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

1. Jesus mediates the sending of the Holy Spirit. There is a conditional “and” in this passage. Jesus is talking to the disciples and the Spirit had not been sent at that point of time. The followers of Jesus who “loved” him were given the Spirit at Pentecost. Today, when a person comes to Jesus in salvation, the Spirit is given to Him.

The Holy Spirit: The Other Helper

John 14:16

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.”

1. The source of the Holy Spirit is "the Father." It is the Father who gave the Son, and it is the Father who gives the Holy Spirit. The picture is touching in that God is seen longing to give the Holy Spirit to those who love His only Son.

4. The Holy Spirit abides forever with the believer. His presence continues and never ends. The idea is that He never withdraws His presence.

The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of Truth

John 14:17

“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.”

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. Note three facts.

1. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, the very same Truth that Christ is. He is the Embodiment, the Communicator of Truth. It was the Holy Spirit that moved in and through the authors of Scripture to declare God's Truth to us. The One who moved the prophets is now moving in us as He writes His epistle in our lives. (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3)

The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of Truth

John 14:17

“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.”

2. The world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. The word “cannot” means it is impossible for the world to receive the Holy Spirit. Unbelievers do not “see” or “know” the Holy Spirit. The world knows what it can touch and feel, taste and consume, think and use.

The point is that unbelievers reject Jesus. They do not love Him, and they care little if anything about Him. They are not interested in seeing or knowing Jesus.

The Holy Spirit: The Spirit of Truth

John 14:17

“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.”

3. The believer does know the Holy Spirit. The believer knows the Spirit both by experience and by His presence.

⇒ The Holy Spirit “dwells with” the believer. He is giving assurance, looking after, caring, guiding, and teaching.

⇒ The Holy Spirit is in the believer: communing, fellowshiping, sharing, and conforming the believer to the image of Christ. For the disciples they were given a promise of hope. They had not received the Spirit yet, but Jesus promised that the Spirit “will be” (future tense) in them.

So What.....

God has placed the Spirit in you to guide you and to help you live the life as God designed you to live.

He comes along side you and convicts you, encourages you, guiding you into truth, and transforming you into the image of Christ.

This is a great and precious gift that has been given to the church. Galatians encourages us to walk in the Spirit so we do not fulfill the lust of the flesh.