

Dear friends, how would you feel if you were one of the 11 apostles and heard Jesus say, “**Little children, I am with you a little while longer. You will seek Me; and as I said to the Jews, now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going, you can’t come.’**” The apostles felt like abandoned orphans. “What will we do without You? We gave up our lives and our livelihood to follow You wherever You would lead us. Jesus, we’ll die for You (**11:16, 13:36-37**).”

In **Jn. 14:1-14**, Jesus begins comforting them: Jesus says, “Stop being troubled; trust God, trust Me. I AM the way, truth, life. You know My Father also. I speak His words; He does His work through Me.” You’ll see His works and answered prayer. Also let Me tell you another wonderful truth: My Father will give you another Helper, just like Me! He’ll be with you and all believers forever. He’ll be all you need to live!”

The Helper (paraklētos) means one called alongside to help: the word can be translated Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, Exhorter. This word describing the Holy Spirit is used in **Jn. 14:16,26, 15:26, 16:7, 1 Jn. 2:1**. In every believer’s case, He’ll not only be with them but also be inside them! The Spirit would do the same with them as Jesus had done with and for them. If you recall, Jesus was also filled with and led by the Spirit (Lk. 4:1).

Read :15-17. :15 “If you love (agapaō) Me, you will keep My commandments.”
Read also :15,21,23,31, 15:10. Is this an impossible mission? **14:15-31** tell us how God’s agapē love is possible for us. The apostles’ love for Jesus would be revealed in their obedience to His commands (also see **1 Jn. 2:3, 3:22,24, 5:3**). Are our lives characterized by faith, love, and obedience in Jesus? **ACT :16 “If you love Me...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper [Greek Paraklētos one called alongside to help; Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor], that He may be with you forever [who will never leave you].”** Jesus, the Father, and the Helper are all mentioned in this one verse. Each will make His residence, home, in Jesus’ disciples.

Lit. **Paraklētos** means ‘one who comes alongside to help’, to bring strength, encouragement, comfort, whatever is needed to walk the Christian life. The Spirit of truth is not only going to be with you but also in you, and He’s in essence the same kind of Helper that Jesus Himself is (**:16-17**). If you’re a disciple, you forever have a Helper/Comforter/Advocate/Intercessor, whatever is needed. Once Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection, appearances, ascension, and exaltation had occurred, He would send the Helper or ask the Father to send Him (**14:26**). He will be with us forever; He’ll come once, to live in our bodies. These bodies, where sin still dwells even after we’re Christians, become the temple of the Holy Spirit! See **Rom. 8:9,11, 1 Cor. 6:19-20, 12:13**.

You won’t get ‘more of’ Him; He’s a Person, and “persons do not come in chunks or bits or pieces.” A Person, just like the Father and Jesus. He’s the Spirit of God. The Father is God, Jesus is God, the Spirit is God; yet there’s only one God! Read **Mt. 28:19, 2 Cor. 13:14**—all 3 are completely equal, yet they are distinct from one another, having different roles/responsibilities.

They thought that Jesus was leaving them all alone, but it was just the

opposite. All 3 Persons of the Tri-unity would actually indwell them (see **:23**). **:17 that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive (accept), because it does not see Him or know (1097 come to know) Him, but you know (1097) Him because He abides with you [now] and will be in you.** The identification of the Paraclete as the Spirit of Truth (**14:17, 15:26, 16:13**) follows Jesus’ own declaration to be the Truth. Truth characterizes the Spirit. He was not given until Jesus was glorified (**7:39**). Notice, the cross, resurrection, appearances, ascension, and sending of the Holy Spirit—all of these are seen as one grand event. Apart from the Spirit, no one can know God’s truth (1 Cor. 2:12-16, 1 Jn. 2:20-27). There is fundamental knowledge about life that will never be found except in God. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God for they are foolishness to him/her. The Spirit’s indwelling and ministry is part of the New Covenant. Yes, in OT times the Spirit came on some believers for special enablement, but now the Spirit would indwell every believer permanently! Jesus was the original Paraklētos, sharing truth both for the comforting of His followers and for the convicting of the world. But now He would send One just like Himself! Do we understand we have the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit living within us, to do in and through us what only He can do?!!!!

Read :18-24. These verses are “framed by two passages that explicitly refer to the coming of the Spirit (**:16-17,25-26**).” **:18 “I will not leave (abandon) you as orphans; I will come to you.”** Not only at the end of the age, but in the person of the Paraklēte. Jesus is talking about being personally present with His disciples by means of the indwelling Spirit of Truth. The Spirit will be to us what Jesus was to His own disciples during the days of His flesh. So yes, the words relate to the coming of the Spirit, but Jesus also speaks of His own appearances after the resurrection and at His 2nd coming (**14:3,19,28; 16:22**).

Jesus goes on: **:19 “After a little while (lit. Yet a little and) the world will no longer see Me, but you will see Me; because I live, you will live also.”** Here is a way of His being with them which the world would not see. **You’ll live also:** Spiritual life in **17:3** is defined as coming to know (1097) the Father and Jesus.

:20 “In that day [When that day comes] you will know (1097, come to know) that I am in My Father, and you [are] in Me, and I [am] in you.” We are part of the one Body of Christ, and, He lives in us. So, not only are we “in Christ” but He also abides in us. Amazing!

:21 “He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves (agapaō) Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I [too] will love him and will disclose Myself to him.” Focus on our fellowship with Him, for when we are in love with our Lord, obedience flows. We both know and keep His words (**:15**). **Read 1 Jn. 5:3. Love for Jesus and keeping His commands can’t be separated;** this keeps fellowship with Him wide open!

:22-24 :22 Judas (not Iscariot) [this Judas was the son of James—**Lk. 6:16**; he was also called Thaddeus **Mt. 10:3**] **said to Him, “Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world**

[Lord, why are You going to reveal Yourself only to us and not to the world at large]?” Jesus’ answer runs from :23 through :29.

:23-24 Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word (logos); and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode [our home; the singular of the word translated dwelling places in :2] with him. :24 “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s who sent Me [What I am telling you is from the Father who sent Me].” This means the Father and the Son also take up Their residence in every believer!! Also, this is the 3rd time in this section (:15,21) that Jesus links obedience with love for Him (also see 8:31, 1 Jn. 5:2-3). We know wherever there are loving and obedient believers, both the Father and Jesus are dwelling with and in them. Incredible! And, if you don’t keep Jesus’ logos, you’re actually rejecting the Father’s logos and your love of Jesus can be questioned!!

Read :25-31. :25-26 :25 “These things I have spoken to you while abiding with you [while I am still with you]. :26 “But the Helper [Greek Paraklētos, one called alongside to help; or Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor], the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [:13 on My behalf], He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you [will remind you of everything I have said to you]. I’ve been giving you words to keep while I’ve been with you Eleven. But the Helper, the indwelling Holy Spirit, whom the Father and I will send to you, He will teach you all the things you need to know and will even bring to your minds everything I’ve taught you.” The inspiration of the Holy Spirit guaranteeing the Word’s accuracy. The coming Spirit would testify about Jesus (15:26), moving writers to speak and write what we know as the NT (2 Pet. 1:20-21), God’s ‘breathed-out’ words (2 Tim. 3:15-17). For us, the Spirit will bring to our minds the truths we know. This is a reason for memorizing.

:27-29 :27 “Peace (wholeness) I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled (stirred up, agitated) nor let it be fearful (cowardly, living in dread, timid) [The peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid].” Remember, these were 11 troubled, frightened men in that room. Jesus promises His peace (contentment, wholeness; Rom. 5:1, Phil. 4:7-9 read). “You’ll have My peace, My presence, My words, and the Spirit to help you.” Later He’ll assure them of His love (15:9-10) and His joy (15:11).

The peace Jesus promises and provides does not avoid trouble; it triumphs in the midst of it. Circumstances may not change, but if we’ll look to Jesus, the Father, and the Spirit who indwell us, there will be a consciousness that He’s able to handle our problems “in spite of the panic of unfulfilled dreams, unpleasant circumstances, and unavoidable uncertainty.” See 16:33.

Peace is part of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). The God of peace be with you all (Rom. 15:33). “To live in anguish over the past, anxiety concerning the present, or apprehension about the future is to fail to appropriate that peace. God has forgiven the past, provided for the present, & guaranteed the future.”

:28 “You heard that I said to you [Remember what I told you], ‘I go away, and I will come to you [I am going away and I am coming back to you]’. If you [really] loved Me, you would have rejoiced because I go to the Father [you would be glad because I am going to My Father], for the Father is greater than I [am].” His words address their response to His impending departure & return.

“It’s best for Me (and for you) that I go to the Father; He’s greater than I am.” But they couldn’t imagine life without Him. They were thinking only of themselves. But agapē seeks and does what is best for the person loved. He’s calling them to think what’s best for Him and view all that’s taking place from His perspective. He was still doing what was best for them, not for Himself.

:29 “Now I have told you before it happens, so that when [not if] it happens, you may believe.” He had their best interests at heart. The end result of His words was to encourage the apostles to believe. Nothing will stop the Father!

:30 “I will not speak much more with you, for the ruler (chief, preeminent) of the world [12:31, 16:11, Lk. 4:5-6, 2 Cor. 4:4, Eph. 2:2, 1 Jn. 5:19] is coming [I don’t have much more time to talk to you, because the ruler of this world approaches], and he has nothing in Me.” :31 “but so that the world may (come to) know (1097) that I love the Father, I do exactly as the Father commanded Me (lit. and as the Father...so I do). Get up, let us go from here [Come, let’s be going].” Satan had nothing on Jesus, could make no claim on Him nor charge Him with any sin. Therefore, Satan could not hold Him in death. **Read Heb. 2:14-15, 1 Jn. 3:8.** Jesus went to the cross, not because He was worthy of death nor because of Satan’s power, but because the Father had commanded Him to go. So, keep in mind, Jesus’ death was no sign that Satan or mankind had won, but that God’s will was being done. Jesus chose to die not only because He loved us, as wonderful as that thought is, but because He loved the Father and desired above all else to do His will. He was obedient to death (Phil. 2:8). He laid down His life voluntarily (10:11).

Jesus was stressing the importance of His followers’ obedience. He set the example. The essential test of love is obedience (:15,21,23). “Circumstances may be difficult, but courage can be found in obedience.” “Get up, let’s go, there’s a mission to be fulfilled.” Walking out into the world of need, toward the purpose to which He is calling us, facing the battles there with the resources and strength of the Spirit who is present in us. They left the upper room and began walking through Jerusalem, headed for Gethsemane.

As we conclude this wonderful yet sobering passage, let’s remind ourselves that Jesus promises that He will be closer to us in our location in the 20th century than He was in His flesh with His 11 apostles. “I envy not the 12, nearer to Me is He; the life He once lived here on earth, He lives again in me.” Only Jesus should be our focus, not self, circumstances, possessions, people. We no longer have reason to fear; we have peace with God. And remember, our love for Him and obedience to His words are God’s witness to the world. Joel

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NOTES

:16 Another of exactly the same kind. **Gal. 1:6-7** both words are used. Another Helper exactly like Himself! That's who this One was.

:19 Placed into Christ by the Spirit, and we are now clothed with or surrounded by Christ (**Gal. 3:27, 1 Cor. 12:13**).

:29 Earlier He had said (**10:17-18, Mt. 26:53-54**), "**I have authority to lay My life down, and I have authority to take it up again.**"

According to **18:1**, they don't cross the Kidron until Jesus had prayed His prayer.

:31 Even in Gethsemane, Jesus' anguish is spelled out in terms of coming to grips with His Father's will (**Mk. 14:32-42**).