

THE COMFORTER HAS COME!

John 15:26-16:15

In His concluding words to His followers,

Jesus wants them to understand that though He is leaving,

He won't leave them in the dark to flounder on their own

–trying to find their own way.

INSTRUCTION TO HIS FOLLOWERS 13-16

PROMISE OF HIS RETURN 14:1-14

Jesus is about to die and depart.

Jesus promises to prepare a place for us

and to come again to gather us to be with Him forever.

PROVISION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 14:15-31 (amplified in 15-16)

Before His departure, Jesus promises the coming of a Comforter.

Besides the promise of His return,

Jesus promises to send another Person to encourage us, until He comes again, another One to counsel and comfort us.

14:16-17 *"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, . . . He lives with you and will be in you."*

He's another One, of the same kind as Christ.

He'll do the same thing for us that Jesus did while He was here.

He comes in response to Christ's prayer on our behalf.

He'll stay with us forever.

Jesus is going back to the Father;

but the Holy Spirit will remain with us forever.

The Holy Spirit is called the divine "Comforter." (KJV)

"Counselor" (NIV) "Helper" (NAS).

"Paraklete" – One who is "called alongside" to help.

Acts 4:36 *"Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called **Barnabas** (**which means Son of Encouragement [paraklesis]**) sold a field and brought the money and put it at the apostles' feet."* –comes alongside to help people in need.

In this title, and in his lifestyle, Barnabas gives us a feel

for the meaning of the word.

Acts 9:26-27 –He came alongside Paul and brought him to the leaders when everyone was afraid of him.

Acts 11:19-26 –He came alongside Greek believers to check out reality of their faith and encourage them to remain true.

He went after Paul, brought him along, and worked alongside of him to prepare him for ministry.

Acts 15:36-41 (Col. 4:10-11) –He came to John Mark's side to help him when Paul couldn't see taking him along.

Because Barnabas came alongside of Mark to encourage him, Mark became useful to Paul.

Like Barnabas, the Holy Spirit comes alongside of us to help us.

1 John 2:1 Jesus, our defender

“ . . . if anyone sins, we have an advocate, with the Father.”

Heb. 10:25-26 The Church – *“Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds . . . let us encourage one another.”*

**The Holy Spirit has been present with them previously
but from Jesus' departure on,
the Holy Spirit resides within us.**

The Holy Spirit teaches us everything we need to know.

The Holy Spirit reminds us of everything Jesus said.

SOURCE FOR PRODUCTIVE LIVING 15:1-17

The way to produce permanent, valuable fruit is to abide in Christ

– to draw from Him that which sustains life.

– as the branch needs the vine.

Our lives will not produce fruit if we try to live in our own strength.

When we depend on Him we have productive lives.

HATRED FROM THE WORLD 15:18-16:4

If we live in accordance with His previous teaching,

we won't be popular among our contemporaries.

The world hates Christ.

If we belong to Him and live according to His standards,
the world will hate us also.

Therefore, we should expect persecution in the world.

Then Jesus focuses our attention on the . . .

TRUTH-REVEALING MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

16:5-15

The Holy Spirit, **the Comforter, the Encourager, has come,**
as Jesus promised.

He has come as **the Revealer of the Truth.**

The Holy Spirit reveals the truth contained in God's Word.

Several other passages amplify our understanding of

His relationship to God's Word:

He is the originator of God's Word. 2 Pet. 1:20-21 *“ . . . No prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation [=releasing–he didn't decide to write it]. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”*

[As the wind blows into the sail and carries the boat along.

He is the driving force behind the revelation of God's Word.]

He is the interpreter of God's Word.

14:26 *“The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things . . .”*

16:13 *"When He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth."*

He is the reminder of God's Word. 14:26

"He will remind you of everything I have said to you."

He comes alongside to guide us, to teach us,
and remind us of all we need to know.

Although Jesus' departure causes sadness among His followers, He wants us to realize that we're better off because He's gone to the Father.

When He leaves, the Holy Spirit comes to guide us.

The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about us. 16:5-11 *"Now I am going to him who sent me, yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' 6 Because I have said these things, you are filled with grief. 7 But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; 10 in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; 11 and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned."*

He convicts the world

of sin, righteousness and judgment.

The same world that He just told us would persecute us,
because we're not like them, will hear from the Holy Spirit.

* **He causes the world "to see the light clearly."**

Legal term used of a prosecuting attorney
who presents evidence to bring the truth to light.

That's what root idea of word suggests—to **expose the truth**.

The Holy Spirit will cause the world to understand the truth
—**to see the light**.

He convicts us of sin, righteousness and judgment.

He causes people to see clearly what the real issues are concerning sin,
righteousness, and judgment.

He reveals the truth and causes people (us)
to understand the truth.

Translation: "because . . ." vs. "namely, that . . ."

Either makes a valid point.

More likely indicates an explanation = "namely, that . . ."

The Holy Spirit causes us to understand . . .

. . . our own sinfulness [our shortcomings]

Specifically, the sin of not believing in Him.

What's the worst sin? The essence of our sin problem?

He doesn't focus on the "biggies"—murder or adultery.

The focus is on UNBELIEF. **People refuse to trust Him.**

The Holy Spirit focuses on our refusal to trust Christ.

We'd rather "do it ourselves."

Therefore we always come up short.

[He causes us to understand . . .]

... **God's standard of righteousness**

Jesus' ascent to the Father demonstrates that

God has accepted His payment for sin

as the basis for our righteousness.

The Spirit makes us aware of our sin.

Because of our sin, we all need righteousness.

Jesus is the source of God's righteousness.

In Him we have all we need.

God has accepted His death as payment for our sin.

When we trust Jesus, we receive the righteousness God requires for us to be acceptable to Him.

[The Holy Spirit causes us to understand . . .]

... **the consequences of our sin** [judgment]

He enables us to see

that the Prince of this world,

who seduces people to sin,

stands condemned.

Since the Prince of this world has been judged,

people who walk in His ways also face judgment.

So, in summary,

The Holy Spirit causes us to understand . . .

That we're sinners—we have a serious problem:

coming short of God's standard.

That we need the righteousness that only God can provide.

That we're guilty; we stand condemned under God's righteous judgment.

Therefore, we must trust Christ.

The Holy Spirit reveals the truth about Jesus Christ. 12-15

"I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. 13 But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you."

He teaches God's children the truth and glorifies Jesus.

He testifies about Jesus

and works through us to testify about Him (15:26-27)

He does not glorify Himself.

He glorifies Jesus.

The focus of attention is NOT the Holy Spirit.

The focus of attention is Jesus.

He gives testimony concerning Christ; NOT Himself.

Therefore, WE should give testimony concerning Jesus.

HE is the subject of our witness.

The Holy Spirit works in us

to help us understand the truth about Jesus.

How should the Holy Spirit's truth-revealing ministry affect MY life?

It doesn't matter what we think about ourselves!

What matters is what the Holy Spirit reveals about us.

God has spoken.

The Holy Spirit has revealed the truth concerning our sin, concerning God's righteousness, and concerning judgment.

The Holy Spirit clearly reveals that we must **TRUST CHRIST**.

It doesn't matter what we think about Jesus!

What matters is what the Holy Spirit reveals about Jesus.

God has spoken.

**When the Holy Spirit is at work in us,
our focus will be on Jesus!**

–Not on ourselves. –Not even on the Holy Spirit.

His focus is to glorify *JESUS! So should WE!*

We're not trying to draw attention to *ourselves*.

We're not trying to draw attention to the *Holy Spirit*.

It's to *JESUS!*

THE COMFORTER HAS COME!

That's a cause to celebrate.

But, don't miss the point!

- * He authenticates Jesus' claims.
- * He teaches us the truth about JESUS.
- * He leads us to **TRUST JESUS!**

Are we listening to His voice?

Are we trusting Jesus?