

Participating with God through the Holy Spirit

John 14:15-31

May 28, 2023

1. The Promise of Another Comforter (15-21)

- a. Our relationship with the Comforter is one of love and obedience (15).
 - i. Our relationship to God is one of mutual love.
 - ii. God demonstrated His love to us in sending His Son to die for us and sending His Spirit to indwell us.
 - iii. We express our love to God by serving and obeying Him.
 - iv. We cannot truly love God without obedience to the Law of Christ.
- b. The Comforter enables the believer to know, love and serve Christ (16-20).
 - i. Since the obedience God requires is beyond our human capacity, Jesus has made provision for another Comforter (Paraclete) (16).
 1. Jesus was going away, but He asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to continue His ministry to and through the disciples.
 2. This Comforter (Paraclete) was “another Comforter”, another of the same kind as Jesus Who would accomplish the same ministry to and through the believer.
 3. This Comforter would dwell with believers eternally and inseparably; this is one of the purposes of Christ’s work on the cross, to make possible the inseparable relationship with God and His children.
 - ii. The Comforter is the Spirit of truth (17).
 1. As the Spirit of Truth, the Comforter has been given to reveal the truth to us and to enable us to obey the truth.
 2. The world is unable to receive the Spirit of truth, because they have no relationship with Him through Christ; they do not perceive Him or know Him.
 3. Believers know the Spirit of Truth because they have an experiential relationship with Him through faith in Christ, and because the Spirit of Truth dwells with them and in them!
 - a. The Spirit of Truth dwells with us (fellowship).
 - b. The Spirit of Truth indwells us (inseparable union).
 - iii. Jesus comes to us through the Holy Spirit (18)
 1. Jesus promises not to leave us as orphans (orphanous, “fatherless”).
 2. By means of the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jesus is even more intimately related to His disciples; He is no longer merely with us, He is in us!
 - iv. Though the world will not see Jesus after His resurrection and ascension, His disciples will see and understand Jesus more intimately than when He walked among them (19).
 1. Because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, they will “see” and know Jesus as they were unable to do prior to the Holy Spirit’s indwelling.
 2. Because of the indwelling Holy Spirit, Christ’s life will be their life both in its kind (cf. 10:10) and eternity (cf. 3:16).
 - v. This new reality will be made possible by Christ’s resurrection from the dead “on that day” (20).
 1. Christ’s resurrection would prove His relationship with the Father.
 2. Christ’s resurrection would prove His relationship with His disciples, and signal the beginning of the New Covenant.
- c. The relationship that will exist between Jesus and His disciples after the resurrection will be one of intimate, loving fellowship (21).
 - i. Believers will express their love to Jesus by Spirit enabled obedience to His commands.
 - ii. As believers lovingly serve God, they will enter into deeper intimacy with God, enjoying more of the love that the Father and son have for them, and enjoying a deeper understanding of Jesus, and of the Father.

2. Participation with the Father and the Son in the Spirit (22-24)
 - a. Judas asks how it is possible that Jesus will reveal Himself to His disciples but not to the world (22).
 - b. Jesus describes this new relationship that His disciples will have with Him and with the Father (23).
 - i. Believers will express their love to their Savior by their loving, Spirit-enabled obedience.
 - ii. The Father will express His love to believers by dwelling with believers through the Spirit of Christ.
 - c. The world will not witness this ministry of Christ because they do not enjoy this loving relationship with Christ.
 - i. Since the world has not obeyed the Gospel of Christ by believing in Jesus, they do not share this loving relationship.
 - ii. The world is blind because they have not listened to the message of salvation in Jesus Christ.

3. The Peace of Christ in the Spirit (25-31)
 - a. The Comforter will continue the ministry of Jesus to His disciples (25-26).
 - i. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father.
 - ii. The Holy Spirit is sent in the name of Jesus, indicating that the ministry of the Spirit is a continuation of the ministry of Jesus.
 - iii. The Holy Spirit will teach and remind the disciples of all that they will need to know to continue the ministry of Christ on this earth.
 - b. The Comforter will give us peace (27).
 - i. This peace is rooted in Christ and His work on the cross for us – “Peace I leave with you.”
 - ii. This peace belongs to believers in Christ – “My peace, I give unto you.”
 - iii. This peace cannot be found in the world, which is never complete or lasting – “not as the world giveth.”
 - iv. This peace is accessed by faith – “let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (cf. 14:1).
 - c. Jesus calls for His disciples to trust Him (28-31).
 - i. Jesus calls His disciples to view His departure as an act of love which should bring them joy rather than sorrow (28a).
 - ii. Jesus calls His disciples to trust in His Father’s will (28b).
 - iii. Jesus prepares His disciples so that when He departs, they will believe (29).
 - iv. Jesus calls His disciples to trust Him in the face of demonic opposition which has no authority over Jesus (30).
 - v. Jesus calls His disciples to follow His example of love and obedience (31).
 1. Jesus demonstrated the extent of His love for the Father by laying down His life.
 2. Jesus demonstrated the extent of His obedience to the Father by laying down his very life.

Conclusion:

1. What does your behavior say about your love for God? Is there an area of disobedience that you are knowingly covering?
2. Since the Holy Spirit indwells you, are you willing to yield that area to His control through His power?
3. Jesus offers us peace in the face of demonic opposition; we can have peace in the midst of this evil world. Do you need to enter into that peace by faith?