



What Does the Holy Spirit Do For Us?

October 13, 2002

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Introduction:

Last Sunday we looked at who is the Holy Spirit. This morning we are going to continue on our thoughts as to what does the Holy Spirit do for us?

When it comes to living a life for God and being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, there are things that I must do, but there are also things that I need God to do, things which I can not do. We do not come to Christ acknowledging our dependence on Him for salvation, and then live the rest of our days independently of Him. We need God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit to continually work in our lives until the day we are called home.

Let's together explore this morning, some of the things that the Holy Spirit does for us and in us.

I. Followers of Jesus need a counselor – teacher

John 14:26

“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

- A. The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus!! Any work that the Holy Spirit does in our lives is done to bring glory to the work of God in our lives.

Followers of Jesus need a teacher. Jesus said the Holy Spirit is a teacher. Good teachers are firm, yet gentle, fair, work hard at communicating, they know their students. A teacher has objectives and goals. They know when the students they teach, are learning and growing.

A good teacher will take time to explain what the student doesn't understand. The things that may be challenging or difficult the teacher will work hard at coming along side to assist that student.

So it is with the spirit of God. He will be near us to understand and guide us so we have a more intimate walk with God. He is the one who will help us understand the depth and truth of God's word. After all He was the one who inspired holy men of God to write the words of scripture to begin with.

II. Followers of Jesus need power to witness.

Acts 1:8

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

The word power here is the word **dunamis**, *doo'-nam-is*; from Greek meaning; *force*, ability, abundance, might, power, strength.

This is not power to abuse, or to misuse, but power that would validate the word that was being spoken.

In several places in Acts we read that the Lord confirmed the word or the testimony of the apostles with

signs following. The signs and miracles of power that took place, were giving validity to the message that was preached. What was the message that was preached? That Jesus was alive. That He did rise from death, that those who were preaching the message were doing so because they had seen Him alive.

What was the Holy Spirit going to do? He was going to give Jesus' followers the ability to testify, to bear witness. He would give them strength even to be martyrs for the truth of the gospel.

We discussed a bit in our mid-week study about martyrs. It is a fact that there have been more people martyred for the sake of the gospel in the last century than in all of history.

Mark 13:11

“Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit.”

III. Followers of Jesus need the comfort of the Spirit

John 14:16-17

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

The disciples were not going to have Jesus in the flesh with them after He ascended to Heaven. Jesus knew this, and so he was assuring them that the Holy Spirit He was sending in His place would be with them forever.

To be a counselor, the word here means to be an intercessor and comforter.

There have been a few nights already this month, when sitting in the family room, I have taken a fuzzy blanket and wrapped it around me. It sure warmed me up and made me comfortable. For that comfort to be felt, the blanket had to be close.

So it is with the Holy Spirit. He is close to us. In fact in this verse Jesus was telling His disciples that those who are his followers know this comfort, because the Holy Spirit lives with us and will be in us.

How important it is that we know the comforter? Since He lives with us and in us, then He knows us pretty well. He knows the temptation that is around us, the danger we face, the trials of faith that we are engaged with, the character that is being formed, the sorrow and disappointment we experience, the joy we know, the witnessing we do. HE KNOWS IT ALL.

IV. Followers of Jesus need the intercessory prayers of The Holy Spirit

Romans 8:26-27

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.”

Have you ever felt when you prayed that you did not really know what God's will was for you and you seemed at a loss as to what and how to pray?

The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. He searches our hearts, and knows what the mind of God is and so the prayers He offers up for the saints are in line with God's will.

We know that Jesus is interceding to the Father for us as our high priest, but we know from this scripture that the Holy Spirit is also helping us by praying for us, that the will of God come to pass in our lives.

This is a pretty powerful thought that both Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit, are praying to God the Father for His will to be done in our lives. All we need to do is cooperate with His will and it will come to pass.

V. Followers of Jesus need the fullness of God's love

I have often told people that it is not possible for me to love the way God loves. God's love has to fill my heart.

Romans 5:3-5

“Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has

poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.”

We are filled with His love by the power of the Spirit, so that others around us can see and know the love of God. This is what missions is all about. Next week we will have our annual missions convention. I trust you are praying and seeking God as to how through a faith promise you can show God’s love for the lost.

God so loved the World – that He gave His only Begotten Son. The love that God demonstrated to us while we were still sinners is the same love that He would like us to demonstrate to others.

It is not part of the natural man to love those who may not love us. Even to love those we do not know. We need the work of the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with God’s love.

Conclusion:

We need the Holy Spirit to help us follow Christ. We need His teaching to understand, His power to witness, His comfort, His prayers of intercession, His fullness of love. Holy Spirit, fill us with all that you have for us.

Over and over we are told to love our neighbor, to love one another, to love those who persecute us, to love those who don’t love us. In our own strength, this is impossible to do. With the help of the Holy Spirit it is possible.

There are people who are not followers of Christ that God’s word says are walking in sin. I think of those who are trapped in homosexual lifestyles. I think of those who push the abortion agenda. You and I are called to love them. God loves them but does not condone their sin. We are not called to love the sin that binds them, but to love them as God loves them. That is something that I do not have the strength and power to do on my own. That is something I need the Holy Spirit to do in and through me.

I am reminded of accounts I have heard of with missionaries who gave their loved ones to spread the gospel. They did so out of hearts of love.