

The Holy Spirit & You

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

John 14:16 – “And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever.”

Translators have difficulty in finding an adequate English word for the Greek word Parakletos.

The King James Version translates it as “Comforter.” The J.B. Phillips Version says “Advocate” and “Helper”. The Amplifier Version says “Counsellor.” All these version try to express what the word Parakletos means. Each of the concepts is included in it.

In the New Testament, *Parakletos* refers to the Holy Spirit

In the New Testament, you will find that the word Parakletos refers to the Holy Spirit. Read through the New Testament and you will find that it is used particularly as a reference to the Holy Spirit except for one, which is in 1 John 2:1 – “And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous One.” Only in this instance do you find that it is a reference to Jesus; at all other times it refers to the Holy Spirit.

“Now the Holy Spirit was Promised”

1. Luke 24:29 – The Promise of the Father.
“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” These were the last words of Jesus to His disciples. He was commissioning them to tarry at Jerusalem for the promise of the Father would come upon them and empower them. He was talking about the Holy Spirit.
2. John 14:16 – “And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever.” In this verse Jesus tells us that He will pray to the Father and the Father will give another Counsellor.

Roses are beautiful flowers. Some roses are white, pink, yellow or red, but all roses are the same kind; they have the same nature – the things inside them that make them roses. The Bible says, “I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Counsellor.” He is not talking about a different kind of Counsellor – “another” is one of the same kind. He said, “I am now with you physically but I will go away and another just like me, identical with me, will come, and He will come not only alongside but He shall come and abide with you. Another of the same kind, just like me when I fed the multitudes, did many miracles and healed the sick.”

The disciples were very fearful. They asked, “Jesus, are you going away?” he said, “Yes.”

How many of us wish Jesus stayed so that we can see and touch Him and then when we have little food in the house we can say, “Jesus, take the little and multiply them.” You see, we think with our finite minds – therefore we lack the full knowledge of things.

3. John 14:18 – He said, “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

Another translation says, “I will not leave you comfortless. If I go, don’t for a moment think that I will leave without any assistance or help, I will not leave you as orphans because I am going to send someone just like me.” I think they said to Him, “Jesus, please don’t go,” but Jesus replied in John 16:7: “It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”

Can you imagine what would have happened if Jesus had stayed? We would all be pulling on Him. Malaysians would say, “Jesus, come to Malaysia.” The Koreans would say, “Come to Korea” and the Americans would say, “Come to America.” Where would He be going? He had only one body.

“So it is important that I go because when I go, I will send the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity.” The Holy Spirit like God is Omnipresent. We can all have the Holy Spirit wherever we are. Otherwise all Calvinists will say to Jesus, “Come to Calvary.”

Jesus said, “I tell you the truth, it is important that I go and if I go, I will send Him and He is just like me except He does not have a body.” He is the third person of the Trinity and He will come in the Spirit. He is Omnipresent. He is everywhere at the same time. So, we do not have to quarrel or fight as to where Jesus will be. He is another just like Jesus, unlimited in His presence and power.

What is the purpose of the coming of the Holy Spirit? Why did Jesus say I will send Him to you?

He has come to help you to be Godlike in your character. He brings out the new nature because now you are a new creature in Christ. The Holy Spirit comes; He comes to guide, to teach and to show you how you can be like Him. The

Bible says we are being transformed into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ and the only way that we become transformed like Him is through the Holy Spirit. You need the Holy Spirit. You need to recognize the Holy Spirit in your life. Many of us struggle to be an over-comer and to do what is right. But do not have the strength. That is why Jesus said the Holy Spirit has come to give you power to be a witness and a testimony for Him.

Church, you need the Holy Spirit. It is not positive thinking, nor the strong will that make you successful believer but it is the recognition, the acceptance and your willingness to let the Holy Spirit flow through you. Give Him room and place in your heart and mind.

John 16:15 says, "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."

Who is He? He is the third person of the Trinity. He has come to take the place of Jesus. All that Jesus was to the disciples, the Holy Spirit is to you and more. It is the Holy Spirit that shows you the truth and makes them real in your life. The Holy Spirit will show you what is right and how to do the things that are right. He will help you.

How many of you have tutors? You go to school but you have someone to personally show you and teach you at home. My friend, you need the Holy Spirit because Jesus said everything that the Father has given me, the Holy Spirit will take it and reveal it to you and show you and make it known to you and the result will be a changed life in character and lifestyle. Welcome the Holy Spirit, let Him abide in you; give Him room. Say to Him, "Holy Spirit, I give myself to you" and do as Romans 6 tells us. We will begin to bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

Has any of you ever seen a fruit tree eating and enjoying its own fruits? Fruit trees bear fruits for others to enjoy. Strange isn't it? But it's true. You will begin to bear fruits and others will begin to taste the fruits that are within you, and they will see and say, "Look at that man or woman, what is so special about him or her?" It is the Holy Spirit's presence – the Holy Spirit helping you, tutoring you. How many of us have been frustrated trying to live for God and obey Him. We try very hard to do what the Bible says is right but then we fall flat on our face and we ask, "What's the use? I am born this way. I can't do it."

You see, the Bible is an instructor, much like a school teacher. The Bible shows you what is right and what is wrong. Because of the Bible I know God is holy and I am a sinner. The Bible cannot make me good; it only tells me who I am and what I must do.

My father was a school teacher and I never liked writing to him. Every time I wrote him a letter, he would send it back to me and show me my mistakes. There would be so many red marks on my letter along with his reply. You see, a school teacher always tells you what is right and what to do. Spiritually, you know you need to stop sinning but you lack the power and ability to do so, and that is when you need the Holy Spirit to help you.

2 Corinthians 9:8 – "And God is able to make all grace abound to you so that in all things at all times, having all you need, you will abound in every good work."

We must understand that God has given all things to Jesus. The only way that the grace of God is going to flow through you and your life is through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach you, show you and make it applicable in your everyday living.

2 Corinthians 3:5-6 – "He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant – not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." Verse 17 – we are able. Our sufficiency is not in your strength nor our ability. But through the Holy Spirit, He will teach us and show us so that we can be what God wants us to be. No wonder Jesus says, "It is expedient that I go. If I go, I'll send the Holy Spirit to you and He comes not only alongside but inside of you to help you to live, to become people of signs and wonders."

It is very interesting to note an incident in Peter's life, before and after the day of Pentecost. Or Paul, in fact any of the disciples and saw the change in their lives and personality after the infilling of the Holy Spirit. For one moment Peter was afraid of the maid who questioned his relationship with Jesus and then on the day of Pentecost he stood up and lifted his voice to preach resulting in about 3000 people receiving Christ.

It is the Holy Spirit that gives you the dynamics to become what Jesus says we can be and wants us to be. Do not lean on your arm of flesh, or your own ability or your own strength and natural wisdom but say to the Holy Spirit, "Have your own way in my heart and life."

I remembered vividly one of my art classes. I was in primary school and not very good in art. But I remembered the teacher giving us a big sheet of paper and some crayons and she told us to draw anything we liked. I started to draw and all I could draw were lines here and there. The teacher went round the class and eventually came to me. She gently leant over and took my hand and added to the lines and then added more lines and drew a tree out of those lines that I had drawn. I turned to my friends and said, "Hey, I can draw a tree!"

The Holy Spirit wants to take our hands, tongues, feet, minds and heart. He comes to fill your life and to give you the right kind of desires. Today and everyday, let the Holy Spirit fill you.

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