

“By My Spirit!”
The Holy Spirit’s Comfort!

Introduction:

1. One Of The Greatest Roles Of The Holy Spirit Is One Of Comfort!
 - Christians Need Constant Comfort!
 - Because Of The Constant Oppression We Are Faced With!
 - From Physical Forces!
 - Just Like Anyone Else!
 - Body / Mind / Spirit!
 - Gets Tired, Sick, Discouraged!
 - We Need Comfort In Times Like These!
 - From Spiritual Forces!
 - The Devil Himself!
 - He Often Tries To Hinder Us! Like We Saw This Morning!
 - He Tries To Destroy / Discourage / Derail Us, Any Way He Can!
 - The World!
 - Used By The Devil To Pressure Us Into Its Mold - And Many Times, It Has Worked!
 - Its Easy To Fill The Mold (Like Jello) - Its Hard To Run Against The Mold (Like Braden’s Rock Tumbler)
 - Our Own Flesh!
 - We Need Constant Comfort & Help During These Difficult Times & During This Difficult Life!
 - 2 Timothy 3:12 - “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution!”
 - 2. When We Need Comfort, God Provides:
 - Other Christians & Even Non-Christians! Family Members!
 - People! One Reason Why We Need To Have A Heart For One Another - This Is Part Of The Ministry That The Lord Has For Us!
 - His Word!
 - To Show Us Who He Is & His Attributes!
 - To Teach Us How To Overcome / When We Will Overcome!
 - But, Before Jesus Left This World, He Told His Disciples That In His Place, Another Person Of The Godhead – The Holy Spirit – Would Come & Comfort Them In A Unique Way!
 - A Way That Even He Could Not Provide & Supply!
 - This Promise Of A Comforter - Paraklete - Is Found Especially In John 14-16!
 - 3. Paraclete - Not Just Used As A “Comforter” - In The Sense Of Consoling Someone In Times Of Difficulty!
 - Also Used As A Teacher & As An Advocate!
 - Their Meaning Is Brought Out In The Context Of The Passage, Where The Word Is Used!
 - So, We Will See That The Holy Spirit Is Our Comforter!

1. *The Comforter Is Our Greatest Consolation!*

- First Sense Of Paraclete - Console / Comfort!
 - The Normal Sense Of The Word Comfort!
 - To Help Calm Someone’s Sorrow Or Grief!
- John 14:15-18 - “If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. 18 I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you!”
 - In These Verses, We Not Only Learn About The Ministry Of The Holy Spirit, We Also Learn Something More About The Ministry Of Jesus Christ!
 - He Says That The Father Will Give “Another Comforter” - Which Shows That Jesus Himself Was Sent To Comfort The People Of God!
 - Fulfilling Prophecy:
 - Isaiah 40:1-5 - “Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye

comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it!"

- Jesus Christ Himself Was The Comforter For His People / His Disciples!
 - But, Jesus Was Not About To Fulfill His Mission, And Leave Them By Dying, Rising From The Dead, And Then Returning To Heaven!
 - Look At 14:1-3!
 - This Brought Great Sorrow, Grief & Uncertainty To His Disciples!
 - We've All Lost Someone Who Helped Comfort Us – A Best Friend / A Spouse / A Parent! We Understand What This Is Like!
 - So, Jesus Reveals That He Will Send "Another Comforter" To Console Them While He Is Away From Them!
- The Identity Of This Comforter:
 - 14:17 - "The Spirit Of Truth!"
 - His Comfort Will Be Reliable & Trustworthy (Not False Hope / Comfort / Lying), Because His Witness / Counsel / Advice Is Truth!
- The Ministry Of This Comforter:
 - His Comfort Will Be A Gift!
 - From The Father, As A Result Of Christ's Request!
 - Shows The Care / Concern Of Every Person Of The Trinity!
 - His Comfort Will Be Constant!
 - "Abide With You Forever!"
 - The Purpose Of God Sending His Spirit, Is So That He Can Be With Us Forever!
 - Jesus Voluntarily Limited His Physical Presence By Assuming The Body Of A Human – But Now, Through The Spirit, He Could Be Present With His People! All Of Them! For All Time!
 - His Comfort Will Be Exclusive!
 - For His Own People!
 - His Comfort Will Be Continuing!
 - He Is Not Previously Unknown - He Has Been At Work In You From The Beginning!
 - "For He Dwelleth With You And Shall Be In You!"
- We Can Go To Him For The Comfort & Consolation We Need!

2. ***The Comforter Is Our Greatest Teacher!***

- Second Sense Of Paraclete! Teacher!
 - A Reminder Of The Truth You Have Heard!
 - A Monitor Of The Truth You May Hear!
- John 14:25-26 - "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you!"
 - The Presence Of Christ Was Physical & Very Special!
 - The Presence Of The Spirit Is Spiritual & Even Greater!
- The Identity Of This Comforter:
 - 14:26 - "The Holy Ghost!"
 - He Is Holy – Completely Perfect & Elevated & Without Error! The Perfect Teacher!
 - No Teacher On Earth Is Like This!
- The Ministry Of This Comforter:
 - His Commission:
 - Sent By The Father, "In My Name!"
 - In The Same Authority!

- With The Same Purpose!
- Again, A Continuation Of Christ's Ministry Of Teacher!
- His Role:
 - As A Teacher!
 - To Explain / Interpret The Truth Of God's Word To Us!
 - 2 Peter 1:20 - "Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation!"
 - As A Reminder!
 - To Bring To Memory What We Have Learned!
 - "All Things!"
 - An Example Of This Is How The Spirit Moved The Gospel Writers To Write Separate Accounts Of Jesus' Life & Ministry!
- We Can Go To Him For The Teaching & Reminding We Need!

3. ***The Comforter Is Our Greatest Advocate!***

- Third Sense Of Paraclete! Advocate!
 - To Assist & Aid Someone In Their Cause Or Case!
- John 15:26-27 - "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning!"
 - This Has Much To Do With His Work Of Witnessing & Testifying – Saw Last Week!
 - His Witness Is The Basis Of Our Witness!
 - His Witness Is Also The Power Of Our Witness!
 - It Depends Upon Him, As Our Advocate!
 - We Rely Not On Our Words / Methods, But On His Word & Method!
- The Identity Of This Comforter:
 - "The Spirit Of Truth!"
 - This Is His Character As Witness!
 - This Is The Content Of His Witness!
- The Ministry Of This Comforter:
 - To Confirm!
 - The Source Of His Comfort - "He Shall Testify Of Me!" - Jesus' Nature & Work!
 - To Convict!
 - John 16:7-15 - "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove (To Expose / To Bring To Light) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.
 - To Clarify!
 - John 16:12-15 - "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you!"
- We Can Go To Him As The Advocate We Need!
 - When We Witness! When We Are Witnessed Against!

Conclusion:

1. This Is The Work Of The Holy Spirit – The Great Paraclete!
 - Consolation / Teaching / Advocating!
2. He Continues The Work Jesus Did When He Was On Earth!
 - He Is The "Spirit Of Christ" (Romans 8:9; 1 Peter 1:11)
3. In A Real Sense, Jesus Christ Is Constantly Present With Us, Just As He Was With His Disciples – Through

His Spirit!

- No Need To Be Sad Or Sorrowful!
 - He Is Our Great Comfort!
- No Need To Be Lost Or Confused!
 - He Is Our Great Teacher!
- No Need To Be Afraid Or Offended!
 - He Is Our Great Advocate!

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