

Series: John
Title: Another Comforter
Text: John 14: 15-27
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When we receive news that one we love is about to die and depart out of this world, it breaks our heart. Your heart falls down into your stomach. It is an ache, a void, aptly termed a “broken heart.” Really think about how that news breaks your heart. That is what the apostles were experiencing.

Our Lord told his apostles he was about to die and depart out of this world to the Father. Their hearts were broken over this. They had been with him for three years. He called them and they had left all to follow him. He had taught them. Every question, he answered. He provided for all their needs. He protected them from their enemies

Now, to hear that he would be betrayed and arrested and suffer the cross and die and go to the Father. He had told them before but they thought he would remain with them in his bodily, visible presence. They thought he would deliver them from Roman rule and restore the kingdom as in the days of David.

So this filled their hearts with grief. They could only see suffering for their Master and death and the loss of all they thought he was about to do for them. And what would they do without him? They would be alone surrounded by men who despised him and despised them because of their association with him.

Brethren, knowing how it breaks our heart to hear that one we love is about to depart out of this world, think how you would feel in their shoes.

The Lord Jesus knew his disciples' hearts. So he said—*“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”* He is not doubting their love for him—it was of him—he is appealing to their love for him. He is saying, “I know your love for me. It is why you are as troubled as you are. So if ye love me then believe me and continue believing me. Continue loving one another—washing one another’s feet, continue carrying one another’s burdens together in love—as I have commanded.”

John 14: 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.

Proposition: Though the Lord Jesus does not walk among us in visible, bodily presence, he has not left his saints as comfortless orphans. He and the Father have *given us Another Comforter, the Spirit of Truth.*

OUR TRIUNE GOD IS THE COMFORTER OF HIS PEOPLE

John 14: 16: And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you ANOTHER COMFORTER,...17: *Even* the Spirit of truth; [or the Spirit of THE TRUTH]

Someone said the believer has two comforters. Truth is, we have three—and these three are one—one in comforting his elect. The Lord Jesus, the Son of God, is our Comforter. This is why the disciples were so troubled. For three years, Christ had been there Comforter, who they could see and touch and feel. But the Lord Jesus’s bodily presence will no longer be with them—yet he never leaves those he redeemed. He promises, *“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*

Two, he promised to send “Another” Comforter—the Spirit of God. “Another”, meaning one who would be the Comforter of his people even as Christ had been and is. The Holy Spirit never leaves those he regenerates and gives life and grace—*“he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”*

And we have another Comforter—even, God our Father.

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed *be* God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;

The Father purposed all involved in the salvation of his people. He sent the Son and he sends the Spirit in Christ's name, he is the Father of mercies and the God of all comfort.

God is one God—not three Gods, one God—with three distinct persons—and the three persons in the Godhead are one in Comforting his people. In verse sixteen, our Lord declares that all the three persons of the Godhead are united in comforting his people. “*I will pray*”—there is God the Son. “*I will pray THE FATHER*”—there is God the Father. “*And he shall give another Comforter, ... even the Spirit of truth*”—there is the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5: 7: There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these three are one.

Each person in the Godhead performs distinct works in salvation. Yet each are one in those works of saving his elect, even in comforting those he everlastingly loves. This is clearly declared in these promises the Lord gives.

John 14: 19: Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20: At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. [and this is through the Spirit bearing witness in our hearts]

1 John 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

Notice, all three persons are involved in comforting us.

John 14: 21: He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him [and this is through the Holy Spirit]

John 14: 22 Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23: Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. [this, by the Holy Spirit abiding in us—all three persons comforting his people]

The Lord Jesus declares this promise of the Comforter is not only his word, not only by the Spirit, but also the word of our Father.

John 14: 24...and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. 25: These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you. 26 But the Comforter, 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.

Our one God—God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit—are united in Comforting his people.

The comfort is by the Spirit acting as our Advocate, our Intercessor, within us. The Spirit takes up his permanent dwelling within us. He comforts us by revealing Christ, by turning us away from us and the world, by setting our affection on Christ at God the Father's right hand.

As the Spirit is the Comforter, the Advocate, the Intercessor within us, the comfort is by the Spirit keeping Christ's word in our hearts so that we know Christ is our Advocate and Intercessor and Righteousness and Acceptance with the Father in heaven. The comfort is knowing that by Christ laying down his life. He put away the sin of his people. He made us the righteousness of God in him. So we have peace with God our Father so that our triune God shall never leave us nor forsake us.

The Spirit does not bring us into bondage again. He fills us with the love of God—and perfect love casteth out fear. It is by the Spirit revealing in our hearts the sovereign, unchanging love of God in Christ toward his people. It is by the Spirit making us know we have peace with God through the atonement Christ made with the Father for his elect. Christ said, “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*”

Romans 8: 15: For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit [himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with *him*, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time *are* not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NEVER TAKEN AWAY

John 14: 16:...that he may abide with you for ever; 17...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.

God's child shall be comforted as long as we walk this earth because the Holy Spirit shall never be taken from one in whom he abides.

The world cannot receive the Spirit nor the things he teaches because natural man only believes what he can see with his natural eyes. With the natural man only seeing is believing. That is what Christ is saying, "*Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him.*" It is why this world's religion has to have things men can see and hear naturally: stained glass windows, ceremonies, flesh pleasing music, and all sorts of activities.

In that natural state a sinner cannot receive the things which are discerned spiritually—"*whom the world CANNOT receive*"—not only will not but cannot not. Nor could we.

But the Spirit of God is irresistible like the wind—when he enters he gives faith then believing is seeing. The Holy Spirit was given manifestly on the day of Pentecost but even that night our Lord said of his apostles, "*ye know him: for he dwelleth with you.*"

The Holy Spirit makes his child know him by giving us making us know THE Truth in the new spirit he gives us. He makes us know the truth that we are sinners, ruined and unable to produce anything of ourselves that God will accept. But that Christ meets every need we have.

John 16: 12: 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.

He is called the Spirit of truth or the Spirit of the truth because the Holy Spirit of God makes us know the truth as it is in Christ Jesus. He makes us know Christ the Truth. Every doctrine is in Christ and by Christ. Every doctrine gets its glory from Christ and redounds to Christ's glory.

The Spirit makes us know the truth of God the Father's electing grace in Christ. Our Father chose his people and blessed us with all spiritual blessings in Christ before the world was made. The works were finished from the foundation of the world because Christ entered covenant to save God's elect and he cannot fail.

He makes us know the truth of God's predestinating grace, that God predestinated us to be conformed to the image of Christ. He predestinated us to be recreated after the image of him that created us.

The Spirit makes us know the truth of redemption accomplished by the Lord Jesus our Redeemer. Thus he makes us cease from attempting to find acceptance by our doing. "For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth" (Rom 10: 4).

He makes us know the truth of Christ our Sanctification. The Spirit purges our conscience from dead works to serve the true and living God by the blood of Christ. By making us behold Christ, he sets our purified hearts on Christ so that we now live unto him and he keeps us set on him. And he makes us know the truth that the Spirit is doing this same work in our brethren through this same gospel so that we comfort

one another with the good news of the great things he has done for us, trusting our Master to make his servant stand. These are things of God which the natural eye cannot see. But by the Spirit of God you know all things

1 Corinthians 2: 12: Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13: Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14: But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15: But he that is spiritual judgeth [discerneth] all things, yet he himself is judged [discerned] of no man. 16: For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

So our Redeemer promises the Spirit of God shall dwell with his child forever. The Spirit regenerated us, gave us faith, seals us, preserves us and keeps us.

Ephesians 1: 13: In whom ye also *trusted*, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14: Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

THIS IS HOW OUR RISEN LORD COMES TO US

John 14: 18: I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. [the margin: orphans]

Since the Spirit, the Father and the Lord Jesus are one, it is by the Spirit that our risen Lord comes to us. Christ came to them bodily immediately after His resurrection. He will come to us at his return. But he came to them—and comes to us even now—through the Holy Spirit

John 14: 19: Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. 20: At that day ye shall know that I *am* in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.

Sinner, the things that are seen are temporary. It is the spiritual, unseen things that are eternal! Do you see Christ by faith? Do you know and believe he alone is your only Righteousness? Has he given you his peace? If so it is only by Christ praying the Father and the Father sending you the Spirit making us know him and love him so that we obey him, looking to no other to save us every hour beginning to end. Our Redeemer bought his people with his blood, he has not left us as comfortless orphans and he never shall. He promised,

“I will never leave thee nor forsake thee” (Heb 13:5).

“Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age” (Mt 28:20).

Amen!