

Title: THE HELPER, JOHN 16:12-15  
(Chatham, NJ; 05/30/10, AM) [D – Topical]

Theme: The helper, the Holy Spirit, was sent by Christ to guide us and glorify Jesus.

Purpose: To describe how He helps us today by clarifying what is true and by interceding for us in prayer.

Introduction:

1. This is the fifth passage in the Last Supper discourse which describes the coming of the Holy Spirit and his role.
2. Previous sections have revealed: he is the Spirit of truth, he will be with you and in you, He proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness to Jesus, He will teach you and remind you, and He will convict the world of sin.
3. He is described as the helper, comforter, and advocate. These are all translations of the word Paraclete.
4. Today we want to gain some understanding of his role and apply that understanding to what He does to help us today.

I. John 16:12-15. What the Helper Will Do.

A. More to be revealed.

1. He will guide you into all truth.
2. He will declare things that are yet to come.
3. The Apostles had to figure some things out later: what to do with new converts who were married to pagans (1 Cor. 7).
4. Jesus never addressed this question.
5. Furthermore the Book of Revelation gave them a look into the future at a time when it appeared that the church might not survive.
6. The Holy Spirit provided the necessary help and guidance for these things.

B. He will glorify Jesus; he will not act independently.

1. The Holy Spirit does not draw attention to himself; he points to Jesus.
2. In Acts this is most apparent: with Philip and the Ethiopian eunuch as well as with Cornelius. In both cases the point of the Spirit's work was to present and glorify Christ, not Himself.
3. Numerous times Jesus pointed out that he worked in coordination with the Father, and the Spirit is no exception to that.

II. The Spirit of Truth today: A legitimate inquiry is to ask if contemporary words, teachings, and actions accord with what we know of Jesus and his Spirit. (Remember that the Spirit only declares what he hears from God.)

A. This is a question that every age must ask.

1. Paul warned us that there would be liars and deceivers, 2 Timothy 3:2-5.
2. Jude warned us of people—within the community of believers—who would follow their sinful desires, Jude 16.
3. Paul also warned the Ephesian elders that wolves from within their own flock would seek to destroy them, Acts 20:29-30.
4. In every age there are those who pervert the teachings of Christ, Eph. 4:14.

- B. The Spirit helps us by pointing us back to revelation.
  - 1. Ephesians 4:20 – the way of darkness and unrestrained passions (19) is not the way that they learned Christ.
  - 2. This has been clearly revealed by the Holy Spirit and there is no need to revisit this issue in order to revise it for a new age.
  - 3. 1 John 4:1-3, the Spirit of God confesses that Jesus has come in the flesh.
  - 4. Once again a doctrine has been established by the Holy Spirit, the spirit of Truth, that cannot be tampered with.
  - 5. John assures his audience that if they listen to the Apostolic witness, they will be able to differentiate between the Spirit of Truth and the spirit of error.
  - 6. The Spirit of Truth speaks to us today through that same witness in the written text of the New Testament.

### III. Our Helper.

- A. We pray to God through Christ by the help of the Spirit.
  - 1. He provides words when we can't, Romans 8:27-28.
  - 2. He intercedes for us on behalf of God's will.
  - 3. In the Psalms and other prayers he might even supply the words we can use.
- B. He works in our salvation.
  - 1. We were sealed by him, and he is the guarantee of our inheritance, Eph. 1:13-14.
  - 2. We have access to the Father in one Spirit, Eph. 2:18.
- C. He guides our understanding.
  - 1. Paul counsels Timothy that the Lord will give him understanding, 2 Tim. 2:7.
  - 2. By reflecting on the Word God opens our eyes to understand his will.
  - 3. This could be by nothing other than the presence of the Holy Spirit.
  - 4. He doesn't reveal doctrines different from what Christ revealed—remember that he will declare from Christ only what he hears (John 16:13-14). This is a major mistake that some make today.
  - 5. However, we can depend on the Spirit to assist our understanding.

### Conclusion:

- 1. Remember that you have a Helper.
- 2. Those who can make the profession that “Jesus is Lord” can be assured that it is only by the Holy Spirit can he make that profession, 1 Corinthians 12:3.
- 3. You are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit on earth, 1 Cor. 6:19.
- 4. Live accordingly! Rely on him! Be comforted that he will help you!