

XIII. The Holy Spirit in Biblical Perspective
Led by the Spirit
“The Last Sermon from the Last Supper—The Helper”
John 14:15–24
Dr. Harry L. Reeder III
May 15, 2016 – Morning sermon

This is our fourth study in our Lord’s final sermon that is devoted so much to the theme we’re looking at for the year and that is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Not let’s look at God’s Word. This is God’s Word and it’s the truth. John 14:15–26 says [15] “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [16] And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

[18] “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. [19] Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. [20] In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. [21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.” [22] Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?” [23] Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father’s who sent me.

[25] “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. [26] But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

The grass withers, the flower fades, God’s Word abides forever and by His grace and mercy may His Word be preached for you.

I want to ask you two questions. I know some of you have bought the books I recommended for extra study on this series and for those just joining us you have caught us in the middle of a yearlong study from Romans 8:14 which says, Those who are led by the Spirit of God these are the sons of God. We are trying to understand who Holy Spirit is and what the Holy Spirit does. We have already taken some time to look at Romans 8 which is the regal statement on the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Then we turned to a second key text which is our Lord’s final sermon that He preaches. Basically there are six sermons recorded from Jesus and five of those six are in the Gospel of Matthew and one is in the Gospel of John. That is the last sermon of Jesus, the farewell sermon of Jesus. It is often called the Upper Room Discourse because of the notoriety of where He delivered it. I call this room the epicenter of New Testament Christianity or ground zero of Gospel earthquaking. That is where it all starts because it is there that Jesus does the Last Passover and it lets you know He is fulfilling all of the Old Testament. Then as He does this last supper He institutes the first Lord’s Supper.

Then this amazing situation happens where Jesus hears them arguing who the greatest will be which was the second time this had happened and then Jesus takes the opportunity to teach them something. He grabs a towel and a basin and begins to wash their feet. He says “If I your Master and Lord do this how much more you ought to serve and love one another.” He is teaching them this principle of servant leadership as well as the love of the brethren. Then He

tells them they are getting a new commandment of loving one another. Loving one another wasn't a new commandment to them but the latter part was – love one another as I have loved you. They now stand in the New Covenant where they have now seen and experienced the relentless, unstoppable love of God for sinners.

What a great challenge in life. How do you love sinners but hate sin? So many times in our effort to love sinners we quit hating sin. Then other times in the name of hating sin we start hating sinners of which we were. We better be glad someone loved us enough to tell us about Jesus. This is certainly a challenge but I think the key is found right here in this text.

Then there are twelve people here where ten people who will flee Him. One will betray Him and one will deny Him but He starts ministering to them pastorally. He tells them not to be fearful. You believe in God believe also in Me. He tells them the answer to fears are Him. He is the One who will cast out fears. He says to cast your cares upon Me for I care for you. Then He tells them I am the way, the truth and the life and no man can come to the Father but through Me. Thomas à Kempis said 'without a way there is no going, without a truth there is no knowing, without a life there is no living.' There is not just any way, truth and life for there is Jesus who is the way which is where we are going, the truth who we are knowing and life which is worth living.

Philip and Thomas start interrupting the sermon but He just reminds them that He is going away and that is necessary for He will prepare a place for us. In My Father's house are many rooms and I am preparing a place for you and I will come again for you. We keep seeing Christ here as He keeps bringing us back to Himself, back to focusing on Him.

Now we come to this interesting text in which this dilemma is being addressed of wanting to feel good when someone washes your feet yet we should be the one grabbing the towel and the basin. How do you worship God with reverence and joy all at the same time? In the name of joy we trivialize worship and in the name of reverence it becomes a morbid event. How are you bold and yet humble? How are you courageous yet compassionate? Jesus is about to give us the answer to these but before we get to them I have two questions for you.

If you had a choice today of the Holy Spirit being here or Jesus being here which one would you take? Most are probably leaning toward Jesus. Did He really have long hair? When He talked I wonder what His motions were? So my second question is when you leave here today would you rather have Jesus with you or the Holy Spirit? I want to try and answer these questions from this text today. Let's look back the text.

Jesus makes an interesting declaration in John 14:15 which says [15] *If you love me, you will keep my commandments*. For those who love Him, the evidence of their love for Him is a keeping of His commandments. Keeping means to hold close, hold dear to and we get the idea of keepsake from it. It is something endearing to me. For those who love Him, His teaching, His law is endearing to us and we want to keep it. We not only want to have it inscripturated but incarnated in our life. We want to do it. That is the evidence of our love for Him. There are some markers of those who love Me. The marker is they will keep His commandments with a desire to hold fast to God's Word. We don't keep these perfectly but there is purposed, continual, continually, relentlessly coming back with a love of Christ evidence by a desire to keep His commandments and some evidences of progress in their life.

For you to do that which is impossible – worship, reverence, joy, Spirit truth, being a witness with courage and compassion, bold yet humble – how is it done. Look at all these seemingly impossible contradictions in the Christian life and yet we're supposed do them all at

the same time. Speak truth in love. Love with truth. How do you put this all together? There is One who enables us to do it and that's why Jesus follows that statement with this one.

John 14:16–17 says [16] *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you **another Helper**, to be with you forever, [17] even the **Spirit of truth**, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.* This is the One that knows the mind of God and will help you keep them. The Holy Spirit loves the truth and when He is in you then you will love the truth. You will not only love the truth to know it but you will want to do it. God's truth will become dear to you.

Many try to say that the latter part of verse 17 refers to the Old Testament when God dwelt with them but not in them. That is wrong. The same work of the Holy Spirit that is in them is in you, they just didn't understand it like you. They also didn't understand the Father like you. They didn't understand Jesus or the Holy Spirit like you. It doesn't mean there is some other way than through the Father's love in Christ by the Holy Spirit.

Here He is saying that the Holy Spirit who is going to dwell in you has already been dwelling with you. Jesus has been with them for three years and the Holy Spirit was upon Jesus since the conception where the Spirit came upon Mary, the virgin birth. There was nothing unusual about the birth of Jesus. There were hurts, pains and all where Mary gave birth just like other women give birth. What was unique was the conception. She conceived by the Holy Spirit. In His childhood it says in Luke 2:40, [40] *And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.* This was a fulfillment of Isaiah 11 where the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the Root of Jesse so the Holy Spirit was with Him in His childhood empowering His humanity for the task He was called to.

The Holy Spirit came upon Him in a special way at the River Jordan where Numbers 8 was fulfilled, the baptism of a Priest. There He knelt in the River Jordan and clean water was sprinkled upon Him. He is being ordained to the priesthood and then the Holy Spirit descends upon Him like a dove. The Father says 'this is My Son in whom I am well pleased' then Jesus rises up out of the river and the Spirit leads Him into the temptation of the wilderness. It's interesting because the Spirit doesn't lead you to be tempted. When the Spirit is leading you then you flee temptation and resist Satan. Not Jesus for He is the One taking the place of Adam and as Adam failed the lust of the flesh, eyes and pride of life Jesus goes with 40 days of fasting and led not into a garden but a wilderness to the battle. There the Spirit of God is upon Him. The Word of God comes from His mouth and Satan leaves Him.

Then Luke says the Spirit led Him up to Galilee and He began His teaching ministry with signs, wonders and miracles of the Messiah. Romans and Hebrews tells us that the Spirit then led Him up the cross to give Himself for us. The Bible tells us the Holy Spirit brought Him out of the tomb. At the Mount of Olives Jesus is received up into what I believe is described as the shekinah glory, into the clouds – the presence of the Holy Spirit. He goes to the Father. The Father had sent Him and He was victorious. He returns to the Father and when He goes to the Father He fulfills the promise of the Father for He has purchased every right now to send Holy Spirit to us. The Spirit of Christ is being sent to you. Now the Spirit that has been purchased by Christ with all the virtue of Christ is now being poured out in the same Spirit that was with Jesus who will be with you from your new birth all the way to glory. That is the One Jesus is sending to you.

That is the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Holy Spirit was giving them anticipation of that Christ. This Holy Spirit is coming from the victorious Christ, the One who dwelt with Him, empowered Him in His victory, now brings the victory of

Christ to you. And now will bring you to Christ in all of His glory. There is another thing I want you to see from this text.

There is an unmistakable theme in this text that comes through by repetition five times, four times positive and one time negative. John 14:15, 21, 23, 24 says [15] *If you love me, you will keep my commandments. [21] Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.* [23] *Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. [24] Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.* What is this unmistakable theme?

The unmistakable theme is there is an infallible evidence of those who love Christ. What is that infallible evidence? It is a passion to know and do the Word of God. Is that passion always as high all the time? No and that's why He will send you a Helper. When you start to fade He will bring you back. He will lift you up. He will refocus you. He will bring conviction and redirect you. That is why He says He'll pray for the Helper to be sent to you.

He is not saying if you keep My commandments I will love you. He is saying two things. If you love Me you will keep My commandments. Those who have read the Bible know that you love Him because He first loved you. He had this relentless, unstoppable, unsearchable, unfathomable love for us as sinners to come into this world, go to that cross, pay for all of our sins, and then from victory to the throne He sent the Holy Spirit to bring you from the tomb of sin to His triumphant.

How do you know those whom Jesus has loved? They love Jesus. The evidence is a heart for and a desire to keep His Word. If there is a root there will be fruit and He just gave you the fruit. He will send you the Holy Spirit who gives you the love of that Word because that same Spirit is not only the Spirit of Christ but He is the Spirit of Truth. Thy Word is truth. He is saying that those whom I have loved will love Me and those who love Me will show evidence by keeping My commandments. It is not what saves them but it evidences that they love the Savior who first loved them.

Notice He keeps saying if you love Me you'll keep My commandments and the Father will love you. There is a reciprocal dynamic here. James says 'draw near to God and He will draw near to you.' In other words, your pursuit of holiness in loving God's Word does not merit salvation but it is and does engage in a reciprocal relationship. Think of it this way. God loved you and you love Him. You keep His Word and His love for you is something that you get to know deeper. His love doesn't increase but your reciprocal relationship increases. The intimacy of your relationship increases.

If your child disobeys you, do you still love them? Yes but when your child obeys, does not the intimacy of your relationship develop? They are not earning your love but now the intimacy is growing. Draw near to God and He draws near to you. This isn't a cold relationship for when you love Him and keep His commandments something intimate happens to your relationship with Him. This is a real relationship and that is what I want you to understand. This is what Jesus is getting across to you – there is evidence and a real relationship that is being established. It is so good that He will actually live in you. He says that I and the Father will make our abode within you. How can they live within me? Let's take a closer view and I'll show you.

John 14:16–17 says [16] *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, [17] even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive,*

because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. He has already promised the Holy Spirit. Jesus has done that which secures the fulfillment of that promise by His redeeming work on the cross. Now the benefits of His triumph are being cast from the throne room and the number one blessing is the fulfillment of the Father's promise to send the Spirit of Christ to us.

The Spirit is first called in the text, another Helper. *Allos paraklētos* in the Greek means another Helper. *Allos* means another kind. In some settings it means another kind of a holy different kind, but not this setting. In this setting the grammar affirms that it means another kind of the same kind. So if the Holy Spirit is another Helper who is the other Helper? Jesus. When the Holy Spirit comes He is the Helper of the same kind. So when He comes guess who also showed up? It is Jesus and that's why He keeps calling Him the Spirit of Christ.

This word *paraklētos* is also an interesting word. It is translated all kinds of different ways. Sometimes it is helper or advocate or counselor or witness and all of those would be right. What do we call a lawyer? We call them a counselor. *Paraklētos* means the one who stands alongside us. Jesus has come to stand alongside of you to save you. I now send Holy Spirit who stands alongside of you but even more than that He will be in you. He will be My Advocate to you and your Advocate to Me. He is the Counselor. This is very important because in the first century they didn't have Jewish law firms. If you went to court you brought a *paraklēte*, a counselor, an advocate, a witness or someone to stand alongside of you. You would get someone who knew you and could vouch for you.

Who knows Jesus? The Holy Spirit knows Jesus and He comes as the Advocate to you. Who knows you? The Holy Spirit and He is your Advocate Intercessor. So in the heavens my Advocate is Jesus and this Jesus has sent me His Advocate to me so that every time I start thinking this idolatry (of sex, power, possessions, fame, applause or whatever) is going to work, the Advocate says 'no, that is not what your life is, look to heaven, look to Christ for there is your Advocate who pleads for you. Christ is your life.' He points you to your Advocate in eternity, Christ the Lord of glory.

He is also the Teacher. Can you imagine sitting under three years of Jesus' teaching and then you find out He is going away? You would think 'who is going to be my teacher?' Jesus then tells you that it will be better for you because He will send you The Teacher. He is so good He can even take incompetent, frail, unable people like Harry Reeder and He will speak through him and you will know My voice and you will follow Me. I will indwell My people and brothers and sisters will tell you the truth in love so that I am speaking through them to you so that you are brought back to Me and you're encouraged by Me. You are also being equipped by Me through them. I won't be in an Upper Room teaching but I'll be all over this world teaching through the gifts I will be bringing. Where My people who are filled by My Spirit speak My Word in love there I will be teaching, because of The Teacher who fills them.

He is also the Life Changer. He will give you a love for Me and My Word. When you begin to falter He will renew that love for Me and My Word in you. You will love Me with all your heart, soul and mind and you'll start putting on these Christian glasses through which you will see the world. The world will keep smudging them but the Holy Spirit will keep coming with that wonderful new cloth that washes it back off so you can see clearly. He gives you clarity, power and is at work within you so that you are being transformed and growing by the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Lastly, He will be the Homemaker. He will not leave you as an orphan. He will not leave you alone. He sends the Holy Spirit. He will change your life. He will give you eyes to

see and ears to hear. He will keep on giving you faith and repentance. He, along with Christ and the Father will make your heart their dwelling place. He is your Homemaker.

There are two things I hate to hear. One thing I hate to hear is when someone says they are a housewife. I have done a lot of marriages and I have never seen a bride take vows to a house yet. You are not a housewife for you married a man. You are a husband wife. The other thing I hate to hear is when someone responds 'oh you're just a homemaker.' This is not saying that women can only be homemakers. Read Proverbs 31 for that woman had a real estate company, a factory and an employment union she took care of. In fact ladies, if I was you I probably would never read Proverbs 31 for that is some kind of woman but here is what you see. Her husband's heart trusted in her and her children would rise up and bless her because she looked to the ways of her household. If God has given you a marriage and a family I don't think there is any higher calling for a woman than that.

That is how the woman images the Holy Spirit. The woman in Genesis was called a helper completer to Adam. The Holy Spirit is the Helper Completer. He is an Advocate, Teacher and Helper and I have a wife that is all three of those for me. She is the best advocate I have. She is an unbelievable counselor and witness but I'm amazed most that she is a homemaker. When our children and grandchildren come to our house they don't run to me. They run to her and I'm glad.

One of my majors was history and I particularly like to read the diaries written in battles. Of necessity you read moments when guys are being killed and it's almost infallible and inerrant that as they are wounded, perhaps dying that they don't call out for their dad. They call out for their mother. She is the homemaker. It's one of the reasons but not the only reason why I am speaking on the sanctity of marriage and the family, because I will never be a part of a culture that consigns any children to a fatherless or motherless home by redefinition of marriage and family. You need a mother as God has made her to be the helper completer, to be that homemaker. Then these men facing death will say but tell my dad I died facing the enemy. They want their dad to know of their courage but when they are hurting they call for the one who made the home for them.

When you're serving Jesus Christ in this persecuted world and says 'they persecuted Me, they will persecute you' and you are in the midst of adversity, then that is why I want you to know about the Holy Spirit who has led you to Christ for in those moments that is the One you need to cry out for. Holy Spirit come! That is why Luke says the Father will give you good gifts and those who ask He will give them the Holy Spirit for He knows we need the Helper Completer. He knows we need an Advocate, Counselor, Teacher, Witness and One who will make our life a home for the Father and for Jesus. When He is in us Jesus is in us.

That is why He said in Matthew 28:19-20, [19] *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [20] teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* The end of the age is when He is coming to take me home and before you get to the home I am making for you I will send the Holy Spirit where He will make you a home for Me.

We tend to say to Jesus 'please come into my life and fix me up a nice little bungalow. I promise I'm going to have a room for you in the home of my life.' Jesus says 'I'm coming but the first thing I'm going to do is a demolition. We are going to tear the bungalow down for I'm building a palace fit for a King who will live in you. I have a place in My Father's house and

I've got room for you. I made the room for you and I will live with you to take you to that room.'

So in closing here is your takeaway. I will answer my two questions so whether you are leaving or here today, it is better that Christ goes away from us to send the Holy Spirit to us because if Christ goes back to the Father then that means mission accomplished. When the mission is accomplished that same Spirit that was upon Jesus, will be poured out upon us. I have no problem telling you that if Jesus gave you the choice today He would say go with the Spirit and it's pretty logical to see that. If Jesus comes down in that Incarnate body and goes out with you what about the other couple of thousand people that are here today? What about our brothers and sisters at other churches who know Him?

Jesus has a better plan for He says 'I'm up here and I will send Holy Spirit. When He shows up then I show up. I don't show up to just speak to a few thousand people for this day I am speaking to millions throughout all the world through My Holy Spirit. I'm going to do greater things for I'm not going to one nation in Palestine but I'm going to all the nations.' He tells us this in John 16.

John 16:4b-7 says [4b] *"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. [5] But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' [6] But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. [7] Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.* So Jesus Himself tells you the answer to the two questions I asked you in the beginning.

Here is the great news. When the Holy Spirit comes He will empower us to love, obey and bear witness for Christ. He will be our Advocate with Christ. He will be the Teacher of Christ to us. He will teach others as Christ teaches through us. He is a Homemaker who comes to us to bear witness of the home that is being made for us and the Christ who is making a home for us will live with us until He takes us there. The great news is that you don't have to make a choice regarding the questions I asked you because when you say Holy Spirit now Christ comes to you. He dwells in your heart by faith. Christ is with you by the Holy Spirit who is with Him. So that is a choice really without difference. The communion of the Holy Spirit is communion with Christ.

There is a choice that does make a difference and that is, have you come to Christ? Do you love Him who loves sinners? That is the choice that makes the difference. When you make that choice say to Holy Spirit, 'Come Spirit and make Jesus a home in me that I will love Him and keep His commandments.' Let the Holy Spirit speak to your hearts for a few moments. Let's pray.

Prayer:

Thank You for clarity Jesus that the way I gain you intimately in my life is by the gift of the Holy Spirit who was with you and poured out upon me and who will make my life a home for You. Then give me a heart to love Your Word and obey it. Holy Spirit come to me afresh and anew. Abide within me that all may see I love Him, the One whom You advocate to be, Christ, my Advocate in heaven. Perhaps you are reading this today and you have not yet come to that Christ who loves you so to go to the cross for sinners just like you and me so Jesus that is a choice that has eternal consequences. I do not want the judgment of eternity for I want the Savior who took that judgment for me on the cross. If you want to know more about this call me at Briarwood at (205) 776-5200 and we can pray together. He will be with you forever. Father, I

thank You for the privilege to be in Your Word and the Holy Spirit in us, for Christ's sake,
Amen.

Power Point

Life Takeaway

It is better that Christ goes away from us to send the Holy Spirit to us because...