

Armagh Baptist Church – Sunday 11th April 2010

'The Holy Spirit – part 1'

John ch.14:12-31

Introduction

At the beginning of this chapter we saw Jesus trying to comfort His disciples, since they were obviously concerned about his news that he was going away. He tells them he is about to return to His father in Heaven.

He was going there to prepare a place for his disciples and all true Christians. But in his absence he now tells them that he wouldn't leave them alone.

(John 14:18). *"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."*

He was about to go away, and yet he says that he wouldn't leave them all alone. He said, "I will come to you." - What was he talking about?

Look at v.16,17 & 26.

Jesus was going to come to his disciples in the person of His Holy Spirit.

- Who is the Holy Spirit?

- What would he be like?

- What would he do?

- What purpose would he serve? - I'm sure the disciples thought like this.

At a time when there are so many different opinions about the Holy Spirit, I think it is important that we find out the answers to these questions – not from people's experience, but from God's Word.

So what did Jesus tell us about the Holy Spirit?

1. How did Jesus refer to him? (v.16)

- Another Helper (NKJV)

- Another Counsellor (NIV)

- Another Comforter (AV)

All have difficulty translating the original Greek here - *"Another Paraclete."*

"Another" - there are two words for another in Greek.

One means, another of a different kind (*heteros*)

This word means, another of the same kind (*allos*).

So Jesus was saying,

"In my absence, My Father is going to send you someone else just like me."

- He will do many of the things I have done.

- He will help you in the same way as I have.

- But he will come as the Spirit of God, whereas I came as the Son of God, in a human body.

While Jesus was here on earth he was limited to a human body - He could only be in one place at any given time. But now that the Holy Spirit was coming, all men everywhere could have the benefit of the personal presence of God with them, in the world, from day to day. That's why Jesus could say John 16:7. It is better for us today that Jesus is in Heaven and the Holy Spirit

is on earth, because now each one of us can experience the personal presence of God with us, wherever we happen to be.

"Paraclete" - Helper, Comforter, Counsellor.

This word can also be translated as **"Advocate"** See 1 John 2:1.

There it is used of Jesus. One who speaks on our behalf, who pleads our case with The Father.

So the Holy Spirit is "another advocate" just like Jesus - one who helps us to speak to the Father. (See Romans 8:26-27).

But the literal meaning of that word *Paraclete* or *Advocate* is,

"One who is called alongside us to help us."

So in Jesus' absence he has asked the Father to send the Holy Spirit to be alongside us to help us, to strengthen us, to comfort us, to counsel us. So God in the person of the Holy Spirit is able and available to meet all of our needs in each of these ways.

He's like the Counsellor who comes alongside you in your hour of distress and deepest need, and puts his arm around you to put you at rest, to comfort you, and to give you the strength to pull through by being there for you.

You're not alone; the Holy Spirit is with you. And Jesus has sent Him.

2. Not only will the Holy Spirit be with us, he will be in us. (v.17)

* It's good to know that someone is beside us in a special time of need.

Just their very presence with us seems to help. But it makes all the difference if you know an inner strength, an inner peace, an inner calm within your soul when you're passing through a time of difficulty. Not just outside help, but help that comes from right inside us!

For the Christian that is possible, and not only possible, but a reality. (v.16-17). Look at what Paul prayed for the Christians in Ephesians 3:16. Our strength as Christians can come, and must come from the Holy Spirit living in us.

* The Holy Spirit doesn't come and go from us, as he did in the Old Testament (See 1 Samuel 16:13-14.)

Now in the New Testament era, since Pentecost, the Spirit comes into a heart to stay. He takes up residence there; he abides there; not for a short period of time, not with the risk of losing him again, not just for time - but for all eternity. When the Spirit of God comes into your heart he comes to stay.

See John 14:17b: "He dwells with you, and will be in you."

14:16b: "He will abide with you forever."

* But the Holy Spirit only lives in the hearts of true believers - true Christians. (v.16-17). Notice v.17a:-

"The world cannot receive the Holy Spirit."

"The world cannot recognise the Holy Spirit."

"The world cannot know the Holy Spirit."

So who can receive the Holy Spirit then?

Well who was Jesus speaking to? (14:1).

Those who had believed in God, and who believed in Jesus Christ.

These men had believed in Jesus Christ personally for themselves.

If we personally trust in Jesus Christ for ourselves, believing that he died on the cross for our sins, and ask him to save us - then God sends his Holy Spirit into our hearts and into our lives from that moment on.

i.e. This happens at our conversion to Christ.

It is God's Holy Spirit coming into our hearts at our conversion that makes the tremendous change in our lives. No man or woman can save themselves, nor can they turn over a new leaf and make it last. Only God's Holy Spirit can change a life from a sinner to a saint, when he comes into that life and makes his home there.

John 14:17 - *"He dwells with you and will be in you."*

Ephesians 1:13-14 - *"Having believed you were sealed with the Holy Spirit."*

Revelation 3:20 - *"Behold I stand at the door and knock...."*

Is the Holy Spirit at home in your heart?

But maybe you're saying,

"The Holy Spirit would never want to live in my heart - there are too many things that would offend him there."

Well that's the very heart he wants to come into, and if he does:

- He'll take up residence there.

- He'll transform the house from top to bottom, from room to room.

Not necessarily all at once, but bit by bit he'll make the changes.

He'll re-decorate your life. He'll change you from the inside out, if you'll only let him in.

But maybe you are a Christian, and you can look back to when you were converted and you can remember some changes happening then, but then you don't feel there's any progress being made in your life now.

Well is it the case, that you allowed him into your life, and he got so far in changing you, but then you said, "This far, but no further!" - Are there areas in your life, rooms in your heart, that you are reluctant to let him into?

If so, you're not letting Him be Lord of all.

Isn't it time you surrendered those areas?

If you don't have the Holy Spirit in your life, think of the wonderful change he could make in your life, if only you'd let him in. Ask him in now, by trusting in Jesus as your Saviour. At that moment you will receive His Holy Spirit.

But there are 2 more things that the Holy Spirit will do for you:-

3. "He will teach you all things." (v.26)

The Bible is God's Word, inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21). We need the same Holy Spirit today to explain to us what He caused to be written. And as he lives inside us as Christians, and as we read the Bible, the Holy Spirit will give us spiritual insight to be able to understand it.

"He teaches us all things."

It's the Holy Spirit who brings this book alive to you whenever you become a Christian.

4. "He will remind you of everything I said to you." (v.26)

If you're a Christian, I hope you've had the experience of 'just being given the words to say' to someone you've been witnessing to 'at just the right time'. Again it's the Holy Spirit who does that. He gives us the words to say, by reminding us of what Jesus said in His Word, the Bible. (e.g in France!)

But I believe He reminds the **unbeliever** of the Words of Jesus as well... Perhaps they've heard the Gospel preached or explained to them some time ago. Then days, weeks, months, maybe even years later, something they heard comes back to their mind, and they are forced to think about it further. I believe that is how the Holy Spirit works (see John 16:8-11). His job is to 'convict the world of sin and righteousness and the judgment to come.'

Conclusion

If you are not saved, then you have heard God's Word tonight, and I believe the Holy Spirit will remind you of what you've heard in the days that lie ahead. If he speaks to you and convicts you of your sin and your need of Christ, then respond to him, and trust in Christ as your Saviour, and welcome him into your life.

Because if the Holy Spirit troubles your heart, His only desire is then to point you to Christ, that you might find true peace in Him. (John 16:14, John 14:27).

If you come to Christ:-

Jesus will give you His Peace.

A Peace that you will not find anywhere else in the world.

If you ask Him to save you, He will give you His Peace, and His Holy Spirit will come to live in your heart forever.

If you are saved:-

Make sure you're not holding back areas of your life from His control.

Make sure you're not saying to Him, "This far, but no further!"

Let Him be Lord of All, otherwise He's not really Lord at all.

