

**Dave Sattler August 28, 2016**

**Sermon Title: "I Need Help! The Holy Spirit, Our Helper"**

**Series: "Holy Spirit: The Forgotten Member of the Trinity"**

**Texts: John 14:16-18; 26; John 15:26; Romans 8:15-17; 26**

**Sources:** NIV Life Application Bible; Commentaries: Bruce, Burge, Moo, & Tasker; Book: Cymbala's Spirit Rising; Mark Peters' Class Notes: "Holy Spirit in Pauline Theology" - Dr Fee, Regent 2007; The Prayer of St Patrick (4th Century); Songs: "No Longer Slaves" - Bethel, 2015, "Lookin' for Love" - Waylon Jennings, 1980.

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### **Introduction:**

- Good morning everyone, I'm Dave Sattler, one of the pastors here, today concluding our spring/summer series on "The Holy Spirit: The Forgotten Member of the Trinity."
- **<Slide>** ILL - According to my parents, one of the first statements I ever learned to say was,
  - Q: 'I can do it myself!' Boy, that idea's worked well for me. How about you?!
  - From childhood, we are conditioned for independence.
  - We place high value on acquiring expertise, take great pride in self-sufficiency — being able to 'juggle it all' on my own — Q: 'I don't need no help from no one.'
  - For the average person, coming to the conclusion 'I need help' isn't easy.
  - BQs: Do we even want help? Would we welcome it if it came our way?
  - When all the while, deep down, we know we're broken and we can't fix it.
  - Like when the 'big one' hits — and we suffer a crushing loss — and realize we're facing a situation the comfort we try to muster up on our own, can't soothe:
    - [?] Someone dies, we get sick, lose our job, face rejection ...
  - It's then we need a Counsellor, someone to help us find a way through our pain.
- **<Slide>** ILL - Toward the end of grade 5 our family moved.
  - And few houses down lived a kid my age.
  - In Pt Coquitlam in the 1980's, he was referred to as a 'local tuff' — Mike Thomas.
  - Mac jacket. Dayton boots. Built like a box car. Fists like cannonballs. Fiery red hair.
  - And he loved to pick on me. Call me names. Kick me. Punch me in face.
  - Day after day. I lived in fear.
  - Early in grade 6, on the soccer field, I met Kelly. Quiet. Loyal. Wiry.
  - One day while we were walking home from school together, the bully decided to pick on the two of us. Smashing us from behind with his umbrella. This went on for blocks.
  - Nothing we could do. Couldn't outrun him. Couldn't overpower him. I was scared.
  - Then came the defining moment. To my surprise, gentle Kelly Blundell wheeled, and with one swift punch, he knocked Mike Thomas clear into the Cedar Drive ditch!
  - [I think he's still in there!] And the bully never bugged us again.
  - At school the next day I walked with my chin a little higher. Confident. Fear gone.
  - I had a new friend. An advocate. Just the help I needed.
- This is the role of the Holy Spirit we'll focus on today.
- The NT uses the greek word, *parakletos*, to capture the all-important helping function of the Spirit. A word rich in meaning, it's translated "Advocate" or "Counsellor."
- For soccer fans, 'Paraclete' is easy to remember.
- My "pair of cleats" always remind me of the Holy Spirit, my Helper!
- **<Slide>** Please turn in your Bible or on your electronic device to John 14-15, p 875-76 in the blue Bibles. We'll also be looking at Romans 8, p 916-17. Put your thumb in that one too.
- Here, in the upper room, just before His betrayal and death, and with His earthly departure only weeks away, 5 times in 3 chapters, Jesus promises the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus seems intent on helping His disciples understand: He will be leaving them.
- But, they will not be alone. In fact, Jesus even suggests they'll be 'better off' without Him.

- Cf Jn 14:12, Q: 'Because I am going to the Father, in my absence, anyone who has faith in me will be able to do even greater things.' - Jesus, (Sattler paraphrase).
- How could this be when the greatest of all-time was about to abandon them?!
- One commentator says,
  - Q: "The Spirit is a gift that must await the trigger of Jesus' going." - Burge p 436.
- Think about it.
- Christ's physical departure meant He would no longer be limited to one place on earth at a time. In His stead, Jesus could now be present to all believers **through the Holy Spirit**.
- And the Spirit is the 'Game-Changer' for us.
- In Jesus, God became "Immanuel, God with us."
- Now, God takes His presence one step further — He is God in us, in the person of the Holy Spirit. This to provide ongoing support in our lives — the help we so desperately need.
- <READ Texts: 875-876 - Jn 14:16-18; Jn 14:26; Jn 15:26; 916-917 - Ro 8:15-17; Ro 8:26>
- Pray: "God, control me by Your Spirit. Move me out of the way. We're hungry to hear from you."

### Passage Outline:

#### <Slide> 1. Teaches Us (John 14:26a)

- Jesus says, "The Advocate, the Holy Spirit ... will **teach** you all things ..." (26a)
- ILL - As a long-time coach, one of the top qualities I look for in an athlete is teachability.
  - Because I can't coach you — or make you a better player — unless you let me.
- I am staggered by how un-teachable many are. Some of us never stop talking long enough to actually listen to advice. Others are on an endless google-search for answers when the greatest resource we have is the Holy Spirit within.
- APP - Willingness to be taught, having a teachable spirit, is vital for Christ-followers.
- But this demands we humble ourselves and acknowledge our needy-ness.
- When frankly many of us don't wish to be perceived that way. So our prayers sound more like,
  - Q: 'Fix this, give me that, bleess me here' than ... 'God, please **teach** me.'

#### <Slide> 2. Reminds Us (John 14:26b, 15:26)

- Jesus goes on, "The Counsellor, the Holy Spirit ... will **remind** you of everything I have said to you." (14:26b) and "he will testify about me." (15:26)
- Here we see the memory function of the Spirit. We need to be reminded of the truth.
- ILL - It seems I often suffer from a kind of 'spiritual amnesia.'
  - Due to life-situations, sin, my own forgetfulness, or by no explanation whatsoever ...
  - A dark pall comes over me and I lose sight — forget who God is, what His promises are to me, and who I am now because of Him. And I need to be reminded.
  - That's what the Counsellor does.
- APP - What is it you need to be **reminded** of?
- Perhaps all you feel right now is shame and guilt and you've forgotten that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Or, maybe today you feel lost — unloved, or unloveable — and you've forgotten that nothing can "separate you from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus." (cf Ro 8:39)
- It's crazy how quickly we forget God's amazing truths the moment we head out that door every Sunday. Even with the very Spirit of Christ living right inside of us!
- It's because, day after day, we are confronted with counterfeit 'truths' vying for our approval — from media, from enemies, from loved ones, from lies we have chosen to believe.
- Way too easily we lose our way. And we need to be brought back.
- To the Truth. To Jesus. To the one place where we are truly defined. In Christ.
- And, this is a primary job of the Holy Spirit. To fix our mind on Jesus. To continue to reveal to us the person of Christ and strengthen our recollection of the truth Jesus taught.

### <Slide> 3. Adopts Us (Romans 8:15-17)

- Now to Romans. And Paul.
- Q: "The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your **adoption**" to God's family. (15)
- ILL - In the 1st Century, Roman men would adopt orphan boys ...
  - Most often, to perpetuate their family name and to secure an heir to their estate.
  - Adopted sons had no inferior status; in fact, deliberately chosen, they might well enjoy their father's affection more fully than would his biological children, if he had any.
- In many of his letters Paul contrasts the old slavery under the law to this new relationship with God, our Creator, made possible through the life, death, & resurrection of Jesus.
- This radically alters our standing: FROM SLAVES, cringing in fear, uncertain of how the master will treat us ... TO CHILDREN, adopted, chosen by the Father — heirs to His limitless resources and co-heirs with Christ — free now to be who He made us to be. (17)
- This family imagery goes back to the OT where God is pictured as 'father' & Israel as his 'son.'
- Another interesting point in the text has to do with, 'Abba.' (15)
- ILL - Not just a 70's pop-band from Sweden ...
  - For a typical Jew, 'Abba' would have been an unusual way to speak of God.
  - But this is what Jesus called His Father. (cf Mk 14:36)
  - A term of endearment. "Abba, Father." Loosely translated, 'Daddy.'
  - A little word, but we mustn't miss the intimacy or access it represents.
- APP - Adopted into the family, we are invited to address God now by the very same name His one and only Son, Jesus, used. More than that, we are invited into the very same kind of intimate relationship — as "dearly loved children" — that Jesus had with His Father. Stunning!
- ILL - This past week marked the 7th anniversary of my father's passing.
  - Even though I was older when he died.
  - At times since, I have felt a bit gutted — even rudderless in my father's absence.
- And I have to say, 'Oh, how I need to know this' ... 'I'm **adopted** by God!'
- It gets me deep in my spirit. And it's the Holy Spirit in me Who seals it.
- V16: "The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."
- The indwelling Spirit is like my 'adoption papers' that prove I am now a child of the King!

### <Slide> 4. Intercedes for Us (Romans 8:26)

- Another way "the Spirit helps us in our weakness" (26a) is when "we do not know what ... to pray for ... the Spirit himself **intercedes** for us through wordless groans." (26b)
- In the name, Paraclete, there is another meaning — a judicial one, referring to the advocating role of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit defends us — 'has our back.' 'Goes to bat for us.' 'Pleads our case' — speaks for us when we cannot speak for ourselves.
- APP - When our lives are clouded in a pain too deep for words.
- And we are weak. He is strong. And the Spirit is our voice to the Father.
- When our heads are muddled and we cannot pray; when we're rattled in the depths of our being, the Holy Spirit understands our inexpressible longings, stands in the gap, and immediately voices them to the Father for us ... what a comfort!

### Applications:

- Let's 'land the plane' with a couple of application points.

#### 1. <Slide> When we're feeling alone ...

- BQ: For believers, are we tapping in to this incredible resource that is ours in the Spirit?
- In church circles we can subtly become dependent on programs, pastors, or mentors. Racing from one to the other for help in desperate attempt to have our needs met.

- When our true help is found in one place only.
- APP - We must trust our relationship with Jesus to ground us. Especially in hard times.
- When we find ourselves battling challenges, we can end up feeling very alone. Sure, we may have people in our lives who try to help distract us. Or, wallow with us. Or worse yet, try and fix us. But that often leaves us only feeling more alone than we felt in the first place.
- How the Scriptures name the Holy Spirit — Advocate, Counsellor, Helper — combines the idea of someone who comes alongside to befriend ... and provide both comfort and wise counsel.
- One Who sits with you in your present pain and helps you move forward; One Who will be there with tears/hugs and the truth; or, to put in the vernacular, 4litres of ice cream and good advice, a 6-pack and a to-do list, a kleenex box and a game plan. All in perfect balance.
- ILL - 1500 years ago, at the age of 16, a young man ...
  - o Was hauled off to Ireland where he became a slave.
  - o A reluctant convert to Christianity at the time of his capture, surprisingly he clung to his faith in dire circumstances. Isolated. Alone. Experiencing help from the Lord.
  - o Years after his release, he would even return as a missionary to the people of Ireland who'd held him captive.
  - o Hardship was a catalyst for his spiritual growth and inspiration to pen these words.
  - o Calling on the Lord for strength, it's a prayer that's encouraged believers for centuries.

**[?] <Slide> The Prayer of St Patrick:**

- Q: "Christ shield me today  
Against wounding  
Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me,  
Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ on my right, Christ on my left,  
Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down,  
Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me,  
Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me,  
Christ in the eye that sees me,  
Christ in the ear that hears me.  
I arise today  
Through the mighty strength  
Of the Lord of creation."

- **<Slide>** We are never alone. Because the Spirit makes Jesus present in us and all around us.
- One commentator I read this week, said, Q: The Spirit would be "the disciples' reservoir of power and their unfailing guide." - NIV Life App, p 166.
- Never left solely to survive by our own resources, we always have a Helper.
- It's up to us, as followers of Jesus, to tap in to all the Spirit offers.

**2. <Slide> When we're feeling afraid ...**

- Fear is one of the main tactics in the enemy's arsenal.
- Q: 'You're not good enough.' 'If only people found out who you really were.' 'When God finds out what you've done, He'll surely want nothing to do with you. Just like everyone else.'
- And we cower, slaves to false guilt & shame.
- The devil loves to make himself out to be bigger than he really is — to make it seem like he's in control. Or, to trick us into seeing God's sovereignty as a bad or oppressive thing and offer us control [like he did with Adam & Eve, as if it's his even to offer], Q: 'all this could be yours.'
- ILL - I appreciate what Jim Cymbala says in his book, Spirit Rising, p 42.
  - o **<Slide>** Q: "When God takes control of a life or a church, He takes control through the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit is the Helper Jesus sent to do the job. When we

fear giving control to the Spirit, we really fear God's control over our lives. [And] When we refuse to yield to the Spirit, we miss out on the holy excitement of living beyond ourselves."

- Yielding to the Spirit, is difficult, I know.
- But if we never surrender to His control, if we never draw our security from the truth that we are "dearly loved children of God", we become a danger to ourselves and others.
- For, people who don't really know or embrace the truth that they're loved by God 'suck' love from whomever and wherever else they can find it. Like Waylon Jennings sang,
  - o Q: They're 'lookin' for love in all the wrong places.'
- Cf 1 John 4:18 reminds: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear."
- And the only perfect love out there, is found in Jesus Christ and relationship with Him by the Spirit. At our very core, it's the Spirit Who gives us life. Everything flows from there.
- **<Slide>** ILL - When my kids were young, I'd ask them regularly ...
  - o The question, 'Who's your daddy?!'
  - o Not to draw attention to me, but to remind them of the real truth.
  - o The answer I drilled into them: 'God, first!' 'Then, you dad.'
- APP - In a world where almost no relationship is secure, we live in fear. Of rejection.
  - o At the office. In our neighbourhoods. In the hallway. At church. Even in our own homes. Divorce rates high. Friendships hard to come by. Loyalties traded in for better offers. People can be ruthless.
  - o Truth is: the love of another human will never suffice, but, God offers the most secure relationship imaginable: adoption into His very own family!
- How can we be "no longer slaves to fear?" - Bethel Music, 2015
- For Christ-followers, it's by trusting and applying — daily or more than daily — God's life-changing message to us authenticated by His indwelling Spirit, 'You are mine.'
- This is our security. End of story. Of all God's promises to us, "You are saved", "blessed", "called", this is the one we need to be reminded of most: "I am a child of God." Oh Spirit, in our heart of hearts, help us never forget this. Amen.