

THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What my goal is through this teaching is not to just make people know more about the Holy Spirit, but it is to provoke in my hearers a desire to know Him in more of a personal and intimate way. I want us to learn to take advantage of His ministry in our lives through learning to commune with Him all day, every day.

So let's jump right into it... Shall we?

HE IS A PERSON!

You know, the Holy Spirit is one of the most disrespected people that has ever been on the earth. I refer to Him as a person because this is one of the main areas where people tend to disrespect Him the most.

You see, many in the church today do not see Him this way. So many see Him as an "it" rather than as a real person. We sing songs that, although they have catchy beats and appeal to our emotions, disrespect the Holy Spirit by referring to Him as something rather than somebody.

Let me explain it this way... Say I was teaching this in some church building and you were sitting on the front row listening to me. Then, I pointed you out and said, "I am so glad it could come today. Let's give it a big hand." That just might offend you a little, wouldn't it? Why? Because you are a person and not an "it!" You would be appalled at the lack of respect and embarrassed at the same time. Well, how do you think the Holy Spirit feels? Now, of course, He wouldn't have the same reaction as we would being perfect love and all, but I'm sure it grieves Him for us to have such a misunderstanding and unfamiliarity with Him. But this is exactly what the majority of the church does today...

In some circles, He is never acknowledged or spoken of at all. In others, He is acknowledged, but is lowered to the place of a goose bump. Both of these are mistakes and have contributed to the lack of power evidenced in the Body of Christ today.

No, the Holy Spirit is not a goose bump! Nor is He a cloud, a vapor, or a feeling! Yet if you asked certain believers who have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, this is exactly how they see Him... They relate to Him through these physical manifestations that He gives us- such as the goose bumps they sense, the cloud of glory they see, or the emotions they feel. But the truth is... He is a person with a personality and emotions. The Holy Spirit is as much of a divine person as God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ because He is, in fact, the third person of the Godhead.

HE IS GOD!

This is yet another area in which He is dishonored- His deity.

It seems that many believers do not truly see Him as a part of the Godhead. He is oftentimes perceived as something like a servant to God. I believe a major reason for this wrong perception of Him is because the Bible said that the Holy Spirit's ministry was to glorify Jesus and, in the King James Version, said that "He would not speak of himself" (John 16:13-14). These statements by Jesus have misled many into thinking that we are never to speak of the Holy

Spirit. It is not that Jesus' statements were incorrect (that would be an impossibility), but it is the way people have interpreted them that is incorrect.

You see, when Jesus said that "He would not speak of Himself" (KJV), a more accurate translation would be that "He would not speak on His own" (NLT&NIV), or better yet- "He will not speak on His own authority" (NKJV). This becomes even more obvious when you consider the rest of the verse... Jesus went on to say, "but whatever He hears He will speak..." You see, Jesus was just saying that the Holy Spirit would only speak what He heard from above and was not going to minister independent from the other two-thirds of the Trinity- the Father and the Son. So although His ministry's purpose is to glorify Jesus, it does not at all mean that we are not to acknowledge Him and His ministry. No, He is a part of the Triune Godhead and therefore deserves our respect, our love, and our *communion*.

So now let's spend the rest of this teaching talking about what I mean by "the communion of the Holy Spirit"...

THE MINISTRY OF THE GODHEAD

Actually, it is not an original phrase with me... In 2 Corinthians 13:14, the Apostle Paul was concluding his second and last letter to the church of Corinth with a prayer for them... He said, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." Now I want you to first understand that this was the last verse of 29 chapters that Paul wrote to the Corinthians, and most likely were the last words that he ever spoke to their church. Why is that so significant? It is because it shows us how important this prayer must have been to the Apostle Paul. You see, in Paul's mind, the things that he listed in this prayer must be three of the most important things that you could pray for someone (including yourself). And since all Scripture is inspired by God, we know that this prayer is the express will of God for all men. (This is further verified in that Paul ended his prayer with- "be with you all.")

So since this prayer in 2 Corinthians 13:14 reveals the perfect will of God for every believer for all time and was important enough to the Apostle Paul for him to conclude his ministry to the Corinthians with this prayer, shouldn't we pay close attention to these three things?

Now, if you were going to pray for only three things for someone very near and dear to your heart, what would those three things be? We could all agree that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ would definitely be one because everything we have received from God- from the forgiveness of our sins to the power to live free from sin- is by the grace that was made available through Jesus. This grace is a must for our everyday Christian life because everything we have and everything we are as believers is through the grace of God. We could also agree that the love of God would be another definite thing to include in our prayer because there are few things more important than understanding and experiencing God's love. Having a revelation of the love of God is a vital key that unlocks a life of freedom and unfeigned faith. So these first two things mentioned by the Apostle Paul are fairly obvious to some believers. Most churches would not object to these as being two out of the three things, but the last thing probably wouldn't even cross the minds of most believers- The Communion of the Holy Spirit.

You see, the communion of the Holy Spirit is just as vital to our success in the Christian life as the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God is. They all three work together and are of equal importance. Why? Because all three of these things represent the main three present day ministries of the Godhead... God the Father manifested and continues to manifest His love

toward us. Jesus Christ provided all the grace we will ever need through His death, burial, and resurrection. The Holy Spirit's purpose on the earth is to commune with us. Praise God!!!

THE COMMUNION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

So what exactly did Paul mean by the communion of the Holy Spirit? Well, the word "communion" comes from the Greek word "koinonia" and has a variety of meanings...

"Koinonia" was translated most in the New Testament as "fellowship." This is probably the best one word definition for the original Greek word "koinonia." So we could translate the last part of 2 Corinthians 13:14- "**and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**"

Oftentimes "koinonia" was used to describe the actual sharing or giving of things such as material possessions (see Philemon 1:6, 2 Corinthians 8:4, Philippians 1:5 & Hebrews 13:16). With this in mind we could translate it- "**and the sharing of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**"

"Koinonia" carries the idea of an intimate joint participation with someone or something. The root word "koinos" means "common." So when you apply this to "koinonia" you can see how "koinonia" carries the idea of "having something in common with somebody or having a common goal." So we could translate it- "**and the partnership of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**"

I would say that "koinonia's" meaning is similar to the meaning of a "covenant" in that a "covenant" is a partnership of the most intimate kind.

In a covenant the two parties have a special relationship and an allegiance to each other. They share their strengths with one another, and if one of the parties is under attack, their covenant partner will step in and help them fight against their enemies. This paints a beautiful picture of what the communion of the Holy Spirit entails, doesn't it? The Holy Spirit is in covenant with us through our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, He is resolved to help us with whatever we need- whether it be our warfare with the kingdom of darkness or direction in our daily life. So we could translate it- "**and the allegiance of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**"

But delving into the Greek language is not the only way to understand what this word "communion" means. Another good way to understand what the communion of the Holy Spirit is would be to look at this word in our modern English language...

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word "communion"? You think of the Lord's Supper, right? Well, the word "communion" was derived from the words "com" and "union." So communion literally means "to unite two together." You see, we call the Lord's Supper "communion" because it is symbolic of us and the Lord uniting together. The way we are uniting with Him is by symbolically having Him enter into us- thus partaking of the benefits of His sacrifice.

This is also what is meant by the communion of the Holy Spirit... We have literally partaken of Him, and He now lives on the inside of us that we may feed on the myriad of benefits that He has to offer! Hallelujah! So we could translate it "**and the union of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**"

So just by this brief look at this word “communion” we can see how vast the application Paul’s prayer has to our daily lives...

He was praying that the church and the Spirit would be in fellowship- that is, that they would work together in a close and intimate way. He desired that our relationship with Him would be so deep and rich that we would partake of all His benefits and depend on Him for everything. This is what is meant by having “communion” with the Holy Spirit.

THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Do you know who truly walked in this kind of communion with the Holy Spirit? The First Century church did! They had such a relationship with and reverence for Him that few have in the church today. Through understanding this, compare the results of the early church with the results of the church today. It would be an understatement to say that they had more of an impact on their world then than we are having on ours today.

So what is the difference? Why was their known world being “turned upside down” (or, more accurately, “right side up”☺) and ours is staying relatively the same? I believe the main reason is because of the church’s (as a whole) lack of respect for the ministry of the Holy Spirit today.

Throughout the one major historical book that chronicles the beginning of the church age- The Book of Acts- we can clearly see the fellowship of the Holy Spirit at work in the Body of Christ.

The Book of Acts is most commonly referred to as “the Acts of the Apostles.” You will find that as the title in just about every kind of Bible, but that is not an appropriate title because you see more than just apostles being used by God. On top of that, it was not any “man” who did these acts; it was the Holy Spirit doing these acts through men and women who cooperated with Him. Consider Stephen, who was simply a deacon in the church, but because he was “full of the Holy Spirit” (among other things), he did great signs and wonders. He was not considered an apostle, yet the Holy Spirit worked through him in a mighty way. Therefore, a more appropriate title for this Book of the Bible would be- “The Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church”, and not “The Acts of the Apostles.”

Yes, if you take a close look at the Book of Acts you will find that the early church had great respect for the ministry of the Holy Spirit and walked in close communion with Him. Take the time to look up and read the following verses- 5:3-9, 5:32, 8:29, 8:39, 9:31, 10:19, 11:12, 11:28, 13:2, 13:4, 15:28, 16:6-7, 20:22-23, & 21:4.

In these passages of Scripture, Luke makes mention of the Holy Spirit like He is another member of the church. These verses also show us how He bore witness to certain things almost like He was physically in their midst. Luke paints the picture of the Holy Spirit being someone who played a key role in the church (imagine that☺). So it is rather clear that they were in tune with Him and heavily relied on His direction and guidance.

Why were they so close to and dependent upon Him? It was because He was pretty much all they had...

THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD AGREE

You see, they did not have their own personal copies of the Bible then. In fact, the New Testament, for the most part, had not even been written yet. The only “Word” they heard from

time to time was from the public reading of the law and the prophets, known to us as the Old Testament. Certainly, they made the most of the Word of God that they had as evidenced by the Old Testament Scriptures that were quoted from in the Book of Acts, but they did not have nearly the privileges we have today of having the complete Word of God in almost every home. No, they had to rely heavily on the Holy Spirit to speak to them and lead them in the way they should go every day.

You know, the church today predominantly prides itself on the Word of God... Some (definitely not all) see the Word as the all-inclusive solution to the world's problems, and as important as the Word of God is, it is only half of the answer to a relatively ineffective and slumbering church. The Holy Spirit is that missing ingredient!

Please understand me, I am not trying to lower our estimation and perception of God's Holy Word. I am just attempting to raise our estimation and perception of God's Holy Spirit! They both work together for the edification of the church and are of equal importance. Therefore, we must lift the fellowship of God's Spirit to the same level that we have placed on the written Word.

I would liken their equal and dual importance to that of a child needing both of their parents-their mother and father. While I do understand that God can supernaturally fill any void in our lives to where we will not suffer any disadvantages if we did not have both our parents involved in our life, the natural law that God put into motion is that a child needs both a father-figure and a mother-figure in order to be completely nurtured and correctly raised. If God is taken out of the picture, the child who only has one (or, no) parent figures in his or her life will have an uphill road to climb.

This is how I see the importance of both the Word and the Spirit in the life of a child of God... When one of them is absent, we are at a disadvantage, but if both of them are active in our lives, then we are more likely to become a mature and complete child of God.

This is why the Holy Spirit Himself is so vitally important to the Christian's life... Without Him we are doing everything on our own. We are limited to being guided by our own finite understanding. We are limited to being doers of God's Word through our own strength. We are limited to praying according to our inferior understanding. And the list could go on and on. The bottom line is that we are up the creek without a paddle without the help of the Holy Spirit.

So if our Christian walk is doomed without the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives then how glorious do you think our lives would be if we walked in a deeper and a more intimate relationship with Him? How much more rich would our Christian walks be if we learned to take more advantage of His ministry unto us? You see, apart from Him we can do nothing, but through Him we can do all things! The communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all indeed!

I hope that so far this teaching has stirred you up to what we have available to us in the Third Person of the Godhead. Now I would like to continue on and discuss further the benefits of the Holy Spirit being a part of our lives and what His ministry entails.

HOW TO FELLOWSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Now a question that might have arisen and needs to be addressed is- How do I fellowship with Him?

The reason this is so important to address is because we are taught by Jesus to only pray to the Father in His name. And because of this, believers might have reservations about communicating with the Holy Spirit in fear that they might be violating this command of Jesus. But, as we will see later on in this month's teaching, our fellowship with the Holy Spirit is exactly like the disciple's fellowship with Jesus. They did not pray to Him; they just simply fellowshiped with Him. How did they fellowship with Him? They asked Him questions. They listened to His instruction and guidance. They followed Him wherever He led them. This does not sound like "prayer" does it? No, fellowship is different than prayer in that it is just simply talking and listening to someone. I would say that it is less formal than prayer is.

So to commune with the Holy Spirit is to just simply talk to Him- to ask Him questions, listen to His instruction, follow His counsel, and to acknowledge Him. Having this kind of relationship with Him is not irreverent in any way. On the contrary, it is actually irreverent to not acknowledge His presence in your life. For us to ignore His presence and not take advantage of His help would be no different than for Jesus' disciples to have Jesus right there with them all the time but not to acknowledge His presence. That would be unthinkable, wouldn't it?

THE ADVANTAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

You know, most believers would give anything to be able to go back in time and be one of Jesus' disciples. They think that nothing could be greater than having Jesus physically with them and having Him be there to help. But did you know that Jesus actually taught differently?

In John 16:5-7 Jesus said, "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 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 depart, I will send Him to you."

The reason that Jesus' disciples were filled with sorrow was because He told them that He was going away, back to the Father who sent Him (see verse 5). You see, the disciples had left everything to follow Jesus. They had put their full trust in Him and relied on Him to be their provider in every area of life. So for Jesus to tell them He was about to leave them was indeed very saddening to them, I'm sure. But Jesus quickly gave them the good news... He said, "Nevertheless, I tell you the truth..." Now let me quickly interject this... When Jesus says that what He is about to tell you is the truth, then you can bet the bank that it is absolutely true even though it might not seem like it. And to most believers what Jesus was about to say would be considered blasphemy if it didn't come out of our Lord's own mouth. He said, "It is to your advantage that I go away..." I'm sure His disciples were like- "What do you mean it would be better for us if you went away!?! You have been our everything! And, in case you haven't noticed, we have not done the greatest job of learning the lessons you've tried to teach us. How could your leaving be better for us?" That is why Jesus went on to say, "...for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you." Ahhh... Now we see why it would be better for Jesus to return to heaven. It is because then He would be able to send the Holy Spirit- the Helper- to us!

Well, the question then is- "How is that advantageous to us?" In order for us to fully understand why, we must first back up to John chapter 14 and look at something else Jesus said about the Holy Spirit...

In John 14:16 Jesus said, "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-" Notice that Jesus referred to the Holy Spirit as "another

Helper.” So if the Holy Spirit is “another Helper,” who was the original Helper? Jesus was that other Helper! Jesus was stating in John 14:16 that the Holy Spirit who would come after His departure would be “another Helper” like Him. But if we take an in-depth look at these words- “another Helper”- we will find even greater truths...

JESUS’ TWIN

Let’s first look at the word “another”...

There were two different Greek words that were used to translate “another.” One was “heteros” and the other was “allos.” The word “heteros” meant “another of a different kind.” This is where we get our English word “heterosexual” from, which is someone who is attracted to another (human being) of a different kind (of sex). The other word is “allos” and means “another of the same kind.” More specifically, “allos” described another that is an exact representation, an exact duplicate, or even a twin. This is the Greek word that Jesus used when He referred to the Holy Spirit as- “another Helper!”

So Jesus was not just saying that the Holy Spirit was some other kind of Helper, but rather the Holy Spirit is the exact same kind of Helper that He was! In other words, the Holy Spirit is an exact duplicate of Jesus – His identical Twin, if you would.

What that means is that anything you saw Jesus doing for His disciples while He was on the earth is exactly what the Holy Spirit is willing to do for His disciples today. Praise God!!! So in order to see what the Holy Spirit’s ministry is toward us, we need look no further than the ministry of Jesus... When we see Jesus constantly teaching His disciples, that is what the Holy Spirit does. When we see Jesus guiding and directing His disciples that is what the Holy Spirit does. When we see Jesus always showing a willingness to minister to others that is what the Holy Spirit desires to do. And the list could go on and on. The bottom line is that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the same and the Holy Spirit’s calling is to pick up where Jesus left off and continue His works. **So the Holy Spirit is to us today what Jesus was to His disciples!**

This brings new light to the verse often quoted today out of the Book of Hebrews- “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever.” How is He the same to us today as He was to them yesterday when He was physically here? He is the same today in that He is here in the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit who is doing the same works that He did 2,000 years ago!

So we have seen why having the Holy Spirit with us today is just as beneficial as Jesus’ disciples having Him physically with them 2,000 years ago was, but if the Holy Spirit and Jesus are the same in their earthly ministries, how is having the Holy Spirit an advantage? That is a good question and the answer is quite simple...

The reason why it is to our advantage to have Him is because Jesus- being in a physical body- could only minister to so many at a time... His fellowship would have been limited, but not so with the Holy Spirit! In order to receive from Him- say healing- we don’t have to press through some crowd somewhere to touch the hem of His garment. All we have to do is look inside and draw from the rivers of living water that are on the inside of us! You see, it is far better to have the Holy Spirit living on the inside of us than to have Jesus physically living with us. The Holy Spirit dwells in each one of us, and He can heal one of us, give another revelation knowledge, and help someone else find a good parking spot at Wal-Mart all at the same time with no problem whatsoever. **The Holy Spirit is the Advantage!**

THE PARAKLETOS

Now let's spend the next portion of this teaching talking about this other term Jesus used in John 14:16; "Helper"...

Thus far, we have found out that the word "another" describes an exact duplicate or a twin and that Jesus is the One who the Holy Spirit is identical to. But now we get to find out exactly what characteristics the Holy Spirit (and Jesus) has as "the Helper."

The word "Helper" is translated from the Greek word "parakletos." "Parakletos" is a compound word that comes from the Greek words "para" and "kaleo." "Para" is a preposition that describes "coming alongside of." It is where we get our words "parallel, paraprofessional, paramedical, etc." "Kaleo" literally means "to call" and in this instance denotes "a calling, vocation, or purpose." So when you put these two words together you get "parakletos" - one who is called to come to the side of someone else. This is the literal Greek definition of "parakletos," but its meaning is far more vast than this...

There are so many different words that you can translate this one Greek word as... The New King James Version that I use translates it as "Helper." The original King James Version translates it as "Comforter." And many of the more modern translations translate it as "Counselor." But by far the most elaborate and detailed translation of "parakletos" comes from the Amplified Bible. Its translation is, for lack of better words, "more amplified." It says "...He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby)." This amplified translation most accurately defines the word "parakletos" into its broad and vast meaning. So let's look at each of these in detail and discuss what the Holy Spirit is specifically called alongside of us to do...

The first and primary word the Amplified Bible uses to translate "parakletos" as is "Comforter." This would describe the Holy Spirit as being called alongside of us to bring us comfort. This means that one of the Holy Spirit's callings is to encourage and console us when we fall into various trials and tribulations (see 2 Corinthians 1:3-4). He comforts us by gently reminding us of God's promises and by wrapping His gentle arms of peace and encouragement around us.

The next word used is "Counselor"... This describes the Holy Spirit being called alongside of us to give us His counsel. You see, just like we had "guidance counselors" in school to give us advice and guidance for our academic lives, we now have the Holy Spirit to give us the advice and guidance we need for every area of our lives. He is with us and in us to advise us of what job we should take, what car we should buy, what investments to make, etc. **He is our Omniscient Guidance Counselor!**

The next word used is "Helper"... This would describe the Holy Spirit as being called alongside of us to help us with whatever we need. There are plenty of times that we need help, and during any of those times, all we have to do is just rely on Him and He will give us all the help we need. You see, the reason He doesn't seem to help most believers is because they do not acknowledge Him by asking Him for help. They just continue to lean on their own understanding and their own strength when, if they would just ask, the help that they need is right there. He is more than willing to help us with everything from finding a missing child to finding a missing remote control. All we have to do is just ask.

Then the Amplified Bible translates it as the word "Intercessor"... This means that the Holy Spirit is called alongside of us to intercede for us. Romans chapter 8 tells us that when we do not

know what to pray for as we ought, the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us. That means that He steps in the gap when we are ignorant concerning what to pray and He prays for us. This is why praying in the Spirit is so vital to the life of the believer... You see, there are so many times when we are ignorant of what to pray or even that we need to pray. That is when the Holy Spirit is available to pray through us and for us. All we have to do is yield to Him by praying in other tongues. He is called in the Old Testament “the Spirit of grace and supplication.”

The next word used was “Advocate”... This word describes a lawyer, or more accurately a defense attorney. This means that He is called alongside of us to stand by our side and to plead our case for us. You see, there are many followers of the Lord that see Him as being against them and not really for them. They see the Holy Spirit as the One who heaps condemnation on them, but this is not His ministry. He is for us and not against us! While He does convict us when we are missing it, He never condemns us! His ministry is to defend us and build us up, not tear us down.

I especially like the next word the Amplified Bible translates “parakletos” as- “Strengthened”... This describes the Holy Spirit as being called alongside of us to strengthen us. This means that He lives within us to empower us and to give us the ability to do what God desires for us to do. You see, He doesn’t just give us the counsel on what we should do; He also gives us the strength to do His counsel! Thank God we don’t have to obey God in our own strength! Through the Holy Spirit’s inner-strengthening we can do all things (Philippians 4:13). All we have to do is stay so full of the Holy Spirit that it is no longer we who live, but Christ living in and through us (Galatians 2:20).

And, last but not least, the Amplified Bible uses the word “Standby” to translate “parakletos”... This would describe the Holy Spirit as being called alongside of us to do just that- stand by us. You see, He is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. He is faithful to never leave us nor forsake us. Oftentimes we quote these Scriptures in reference to Jesus, but they are just as true for the Third-Person of the Godhead too. The Holy Spirit is promised to abide by our side forever (John 14:16).

OUR DIVINE COACH

All of these words that the Amplified Bible uses to translate “parakletos” give us a well-rounded view of its true meaning, but there is a one-word translation that I like more than any other. I heard it from Rick Renner, a Greek scholar and apostle to the former Soviet Union. He said that “parakletos” could be accurately translated as **Coach**.

Why do I prefer “Coach” above all the other translations, you might ask? It is because I believe the term “Coach” perfectly describes His and our responsibility in our ministry together. You see, a coach is not there to swing the bat or throw the ball for you. They are not going to do it for you, but they will help you through counsel, correction, and instruction. This is exactly what the Holy Spirit’s ministry is to us... He is our Divine Coach! He is not going to make you do anything... He will lead, but we must follow- letting Him coach us through life.

A great example of this coaching aspect of the Holy Spirit is with witnessing... You know, many believers are terrified of witnessing. Why? One of the main reasons is because they are afraid they will not know what to say, but this is why we were given the Holy Spirit! He is in us to help coach us through those occasions where we are witnessing to an unbeliever. You see, He knows that person inside and out. He knows everything about them. So all we have to do is approach the person when the Holy Spirit leads us to and then listen with the ear of our heart to how the

Holy Spirit coaches us through it. He will give us creative examples to minister to them. He will bring Scriptures to our remembrance. He will prompt us when to listen and when to speak. He will guide us through the whole process if we will just depend on Him. I like to say that the Holy Spirit is witnessing made fun.☺ He will make us look good in witnessing (and in life in general) if we will just heed His instruction.

You see, His job is to coach us how to live undefeated in this life and the next!

2 Corinthians 2:14 says, “Thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ...” You see, through the person of the Holy Spirit, God is always leading us into victory. The Spirit’s job is to lead us; our job is to follow His leadings. And if we successfully follow His promptings and His commands we will always win. He will lead us into the winning circle every single time! Of course, this does not mean that we will never encounter any contests. It just means that we can have victory over every one of those contests that come our way!

Yes, the Holy Spirit is here to guide us all along our Christian journey towards Heaven... He will lead us into winning our race of faith, fighting the good fight of faith, and receiving the crowns of life and of righteousness for overcoming the world. He will instruct us how to run roughshod over the Kingdom of darkness and knock the devil out of the ballpark! You see, just as the great coaches can turn their mediocre players into exceptional athletes, likewise the Holy Spirit is here to coach us individually so that we each become conformed into the image of Jesus Christ.

But just as we like to say, there is no “I” in “Team.” The Holy Spirit is also here to coach us into the unity of the faith- into a perfect reflection of Christ Himself. His job is to make the Church into a team and a family, and not just a bunch of individuals. You see, just as the best coaches can cause their players to work together and operate as a well-oiled machine, likewise the Holy Spirit is here to coach the Church into operating as one Body. And just as in the world the coach does not generally get much credit for the success of the team, the Holy Spirit does not prefer to receive the glory either. All the glory is to go to the organization as a whole- “TEAM JESUS” (i.e. the King and His Kingdom).

Yes, the Holy Spirit is called alongside of us to be our divine coach- to train and instruct us to be all that we can be for God’s Kingdom... He is on this earth to stand by our side- comforting, counseling, and strengthening us.

THE DIVINE APOSTLE

Now I would like to continue by talking about what it is that the Holy Spirit is commissioned to do for us. So let’s take a look at a small and seemingly insignificant phrase in 1 Peter chapter one...

In 1 Peter 1:12 Peter talked about how those who preached the gospel to the recipients of his letter did it through the Holy Spirit Who was *sent from heaven*. There is a powerful description of the Holy Spirit’s commission contained in these three words- “sent from heaven”...

The word “sent” comes from the Greek word “apostello,” and can more specifically be defined as “to commission, to set apart for a special service, or to send out with a mission to fulfill.” This word “apostello” is akin to the Greek word used to translate “apostle,” which means- “sent one.”

You see, an apostle is someone who is sent to foreign soil to start, establish, and build up churches. Likewise, the Holy Spirit was sent from heaven with a similar mission to fulfill... That

mission was (and still is) to start churches, establish churches, and build up churches. Now I am not talking about physical church buildings... I am talking about the true Church- the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit's commission is to start churches- that is, to draw people to the Lord Jesus Christ and to regenerate them through the new birth. The Holy Spirit's commission is to establish those churches- that is, to teach and council those He has regenerated, thus making disciples out of them. And, last but not least, the Holy Spirit's commission is to build these churches up- that is, to strengthen and edify these believers so that they will grow and reach their full potential.

You see, the Holy Spirit is like our own personal "apostle"... What do I mean? I mean that He is the One who got us started in our Christian walk by coming to this earth from heaven and drawing us to our Lord and Savior. Not only that, but He is the One who keeps us progressing on the path of life by teaching, encouraging, and strengthening us. I believe this is the best summary of His commission. But the Scriptures are more specific on what His commission entails. And this month I want us to begin to take an in depth look at a few of the commissions He has been given. So let's start in John chapter 14...

HIS COMMISSION TO TEACH

In John 14:25&26 Jesus was in the middle of teaching His disciples for the last time and said, "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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 things that I said to you."

First of all, notice that in verse 25 Jesus said- "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you..." "These things" is a reference to what Jesus was currently teaching them here in John chapters 14-16 and very likely is also a reference to everything that Jesus had taught them during His earthly ministry. But the time was fast approaching that He would be leaving them and returning to His Father, and although He had taught them many great things while being present with them, He had not taught them everything there was to know. Part of the reason for this was because His disciples were unregenerate all during His earthly ministry. Therefore, they, as natural carnal people, could not effectively understand all spiritual truth. Jesus alluded to this in John 16:12 when He said, "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now." The reason they could not "bear" them was because they were still carnal and sold under sin. Trying to feed spiritual teaching to carnal people is like trying to feed a t-bone steak to a baby... They can't handle it!

So although Jesus could not teach them all things, the day was soon coming that they would be born again and would be in the position to bear all spiritual truth... This is why Jesus went on to say- "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things..." Jesus was literally saying that the Holy Spirit was being sent in His place (i.e. in His name) and would continue to teach His disciples as Jesus had taught them until they had learned all things. In other words, part of the Holy Spirit's commission was to finish teaching Jesus' disciples the truths of the New Testament that Jesus had begun to teach them while He was with them.

It is quite obvious by studying the content of the New Testament epistles that the Holy Spirit had indeed fulfilled this commission to teach them all things! After Jesus' disciples (such as Peter and John) received the Holy Spirit, He began to systematically teach them the full council of God. Then the Holy Spirit inspired some of them to pen letters that would be canonized forever as New Testament Scripture. During this time, there were others who also received the

Holy Spirit and were taught even deeper truths of the gospel of Christ and were inspired to write them down as well.

By far the greatest example of this was the Apostle Paul... The Holy Spirit taught him so many great New Testament realities such as justification by faith etc. that even Peter thought some of his teachings were hard to understand (see 2 Peter 3:16), and what was so amazing about this was that Paul never even walked with Jesus! But this is the power of the teaching commission of the Holy Spirit! It doesn't matter if you have not had all the advantages that others have had in regards to education and other privileges; if you have the Holy Spirit, He is the only teacher you need to be filled with all the wisdom of God!

This is what the Apostle John meant in 1 John 2:27 when he said- "But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things..."

Now the anointing is a specific reference to the Holy Spirit, and notice what John said is a benefit of Him abiding in us... He said that we do not need anyone to teach us. Now some have mistakenly interpreted this to say that we do not even need teachers in the Body of Christ. Those who believe this reject the teachers God has placed around them because, in their arrogance, they think all they need is the Holy Spirit to teach them. This is not what the scripture is saying! All John was saying was that we do not have to have teachers. In other words, we who have the Holy Spirit are not limited to being taught by other human beings. We have the unlimited resources of the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit abiding within us! You see, John was just saying that we do not have to be totally dependent on man teaching us. He was not saying that it is non-beneficial to listen to the good anointed teaching that is available to us. As a matter of fact, if you look at the context and what John said next, the meaning of this verse becomes clearer...

In context, John was warning against the deception of false teachers (see 2:18 & 26). So when he said that we do not need that anyone teach us, he was likely refuting one of the heresies of these false teachers that in order to understand spiritual things, they had to learn it from them. You see, false teachers will try and make you totally dependent on them. They will try and deceive you into thinking that they have the corner on the truth. They will even try and discourage you from studying the Word for yourself and to lean on them to interpret it for you.

John went on to say in 1 John 2:27, "but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things..."

Notice that he referred to the Holy Spirit who will teach us all things as "the same anointing." By using the word "same" John is obviously comparing the anointing of the one teaching to the anointing of the one being taught. In other words, He was referring to having the Holy Spirit abiding in you and also being taught by someone ministering by the same Spirit. You see, this is the best way to be taught the truth. Why? Because when you have the Holy Spirit in someone else teaching you and the same Holy Spirit on the inside of you teaching you, you are more likely to not miss the truths He wants you to get.

Another important truth to notice in this phrase is found in the word "concerning" (NKJV). Remember that when Jesus gave this commission of the Holy Spirit, He just told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them all things (John 14:26). But here, John said that He would teach us "concerning" all things. Why did John add this word? I believe it is because John wanted to dispel another common error of false teachers...

You see, many false teachings come from “revelations” that heretics supposedly receive which go totally beyond what is written in the Scriptures. In other words, false teachings rarely ever stay within the boundaries of the Bible. They are oftentimes a product of an idea or philosophy and sometimes are even a result of some spectacular dream or vision that they had.

So when John said that the anointing would teach us “concerning” all things, he was referring to the things that the Holy Spirit had already revealed to the apostles and were communicated to us by the apostles. So Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would teach them all things, but John is telling the church that the Holy Spirit would teach us “concerning” all those things that He taught them. You see, this is how this promise affects us... We have the Holy Spirit abiding in us to teach us all things, but He is only going to teach us within the boundaries of all the things that have been written.

So we have the Holy Spirit here to teach us... He will teach us concerning all those wonderful mysteries we have recorded in the New Testament epistles and He will teach us through the many anointed teachers that are in the Body of Christ today! His commission is to teach!

HIS COMMISSION IS TO REMIND

But this is not all Jesus said that He was commissioned to do in John 14:26. He also said, “and He will bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” So not only did Jesus promise His disciples that the Holy Spirit would pick up where He left off and continue to teach them the complete mystery of our New and Better Covenant, He also promised that the Holy Spirit would remind them of all the things He had taught them for the past three years!

You know, during that three year span, Jesus’ disciples did not have the privilege of writing down what Jesus was teaching them at the time. I’m sure that they sometimes had to put their heads together to remember what Jesus had said a week before. But Jesus was assuring them here that they need not worry if they did not take notes of what He had taught them because the best note taking system- The Holy Helper- was coming to remind them of all the things that He had said to them!

So how does this commission of the Holy Spirit apply to us? I mean if we weren’t there to be personally taught by Jesus during His earthly ministry, what does the Holy Spirit remind us of? I believe this promise has a couple of different applications to us today...

Number one, this can apply to whatever things that the Lord has specifically spoken to us... For example, if we have been walking with the Lord for any amount of time, we have had Him speak certain things to our hearts whether it be an exhortation, rebuke, etc. Well, the Holy Spirit’s commission is to remind us of those things when we, through the weakness of our flesh, forget what He has told us. Another example is with the things that the Lord has spoken to us through the gifts of the Spirit working through other people- such as a prophecy, word of wisdom, etc. You see, sometimes we go through difficult times, and when we are in the middle of the storm, sometimes we need a little reminder of the promises God has spoken into our lives in order to receive strength to make it through those trials.

I believe another way it applies to us is similar to the application I used with Jesus’ previous statement- “He will teach you all things”...

Earlier I made the point that the Holy Spirit fulfilled this commission to teach the Apostles “all things.” So this applies to us in that the Holy Spirit teaches us the mystery of the New Covenant through what has been written in the New Testament epistles. Well, if Jesus then said that another commission of the Holy Spirit was to remind His disciples of the things that He had previously taught them, then wouldn't it stand that what is recorded in the four Gospels are what the Holy Spirit reminded them of? That's right... What we have recorded in the four Gospels and have been canonized as Scripture are a literal fulfillment of this commission of the Holy Spirit to remind Jesus' disciples of what He had taught them. So with this being the case, the Holy Spirit fulfilling His commission to remind us of the things that Jesus taught 2,000 years ago would be Him reminding us of the things that are written in the four Gospels.

Let me give you an example to illustrate what I mean...

Say, for instance, you were telling another believer about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit but they were afraid that if they prayed to receive the Holy Spirit that they might open themselves up to something bad. But while they were explaining their apprehensions, the Holy Spirit quickens Luke 11:11-13 to you that explains how if no natural parent would give their children something harmful if they asked for something beneficial, how much more will our Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him!?! You then quote this saying of Jesus to them and immediately all those apprehensions leave and they are ready to receive. That would be an example of the Holy Spirit bringing to our remembrance the things that Jesus had said.

You see, we not only have the Holy Spirit here to teach us, we also have Him here to remind us... He will remind us of everything from what the Lord has spoken to us individually to what the Lord has spoken to us all as revealed in the Gospels. His commission is to remind!

So let's conclude this section of this teaching by taking a look at another similar statement that Jesus made about this commission of the Holy Spirit...

GOOD SHEPHERD OR GOOD COWBOY?

In John 16:13 Jesus said, “However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth...”

As previously noted, in verse 12 Jesus told them that He still had many things to say to them but they could not bear them at that time. This described their inability to receive certain spiritual meat because they had not been regenerated and reborn spiritually. So when Jesus started off by saying “however” in verse 13- He was again pointing them ahead to the ministry of the Holy Spirit coming in His place and picking up where He left off.

But notice that Jesus here refers to the Holy Spirit as “the Spirit of truth” and states that He will guide us into all “truth.”

Now the question that needs to be answered here is- What is Truth? This is the question that Pilate asked Jesus just prior to His crucifixion. Well, there are several different answers we can gather from the Scriptures...

Number one, Jesus is the truth... In John 14:6 He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life...” So if Jesus is the truth, then the Holy Spirit would be “the Spirit of Jesus.” This would definitely coincide with what else Jesus said the Holy Spirit was commissioned to do... To testify of Him (see John 15:26). You see, the Holy Spirit's primary objective is to glorify Jesus and make Him

known throughout the world. He is here to bear witness of Jesus' lordship and redemptive work. This is a major reason He is called "the Spirit of truth."

Number two, God's Word is truth... In John chapter 17, Jesus was praying to the Father and in the middle of His prayer, He states- "Sanctify them by your truth. Your Word is truth" (vs.17). So if God's Holy Word is the truth, then the Holy Spirit would be "the Spirit of the Word." And this does not contradict the fact that Jesus is also the truth because Jesus is the Word (see John 1:2).

So Jesus said that when He- the Spirit of truth- has come, He will guide you into all truth. You could say that He will guide you into all of Jesus, or He will guide you into all the Word.

Now an important truth that Jesus gives about the Holy Spirit's ministry to teach and direct us is found in the Word- "guide." Notice it does not say- He will drive us into all truth, or He will drag us into all truth. No, Jesus said He will guide us into all truth. To guide someone carries more of the idea to lead them. On top of that, you cannot guide something or someone that is not already moving! Take for instance, a boat... You can turn the rudder one way or another, but if the boat is not already moving it will not make a difference in the direction that the boat goes. Likewise, we have to be "moving" in order for His guidance to become effective. What do I mean by "moving?" I mean that there must be cooperation on our part because some of the responsibility has been given to us. Say, for instance, if we desire to know the truth of God's Word. Well, we can't just sit back and do nothing and expect the Holy Spirit to guide us into the truth of His Word. No, we must seek the truth through reading, studying, and meditating God's Word. When we get our "boat" started in that direction is when the "Rudder"- Holy Spirit- can guide us through teaching us and bringing things to our remembrance. **The Holy Spirit is the ultimate study guide!**

This describes the Holy Spirit's ministry toward us... His nature is to gently guide us in the direction that we need to go- whether that be leading us into a fruitful, abiding relationship with Jesus or leading us into increasing in our wisdom and understanding of the Word.

You see, He is not interested in "making" us do anything. He is not "the good cowboy"- driving and corralling His flock and making them go in the direction He desires. No, the Holy Spirit- similarly to Jesus' proclamation of Himself- is the good shepherd... Like Jesus, He is commissioned to lead us beside the still waters and into greener pastures. But, just as a shepherd does, He leads us, but we are responsible for following Him as He guides us.

Now it seems good to continue on the subject of the commission of the Holy Spirit seeing there are so many other things that He is called to do for us.

HIS COMMISSION IS TO CONVICT

So let's continue this teaching on the Holy Spirit's commission by backing up to John 16:8-11...

In these verses Jesus said, "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

Now I do not want to spend too much time here explaining these three particular things that Jesus said He would convict the world of, but would rather focus on His commission to convict in general.

I will say, however, that in meditating what Jesus was saying through these three examples, I have seen how Jesus covered His three basic areas of conviction... The Holy Spirit convicts the world of what is wrong (i.e. sin), what is right (i.e. righteousness), and last but not least, He convicts the world of the outcome of doing what is wrong or right (i.e. judgment).

But what does the word “convict” actually mean? In our modern day vernacular it has more of a negative tone to it...

To us, to “convict” carries the idea of some judge who is looking down on the guilty and condemning them for their wrongdoing. And religion has not helped this perception of conviction either... It has painted the picture that God is looking down on us with a lightning bolt in His hand ready to strike us down at any moment for our sinful ways. So, therefore, they teach that the Holy Spirit’s ministry is to constantly hound us- condemning us for all our various faults and shortcomings. This is not what the Holy Spirit is commissioned to do! No, this Greek word translated as “convict” carries more of the idea to “convince or to prove” than it does to “condemn.”

You see, the Holy Spirit’s ministry is not a negative ministry; it is a positive ministry! He is an exhorter and an encourager, not a “beat ‘em down in the dumps” condemner (see Romans 8:1&34)! While He certainly does “convict” us when we do wrong- He does it in order to teach and train us to become more like Jesus in our attitudes and conduct, and not to make us feel bad. **He is a convicter and not a condemner!**

CONVICTION VS. CONDEMNATION

The question that begs to be answered then is- What is the difference between conviction and condemnation? Understanding the difference between these two is vital to being able to discern the difference between what comes from God, Satan, and even us.

First and foremost, we must know that the Holy Spirit never, ever condemns us (see Romans 8:1&34)! So if we ever feel even a hint of condemnation over something we did then we should eliminate God from being a possible suspect, which would leave Satan or ourselves as the only two possible suspects.

Earlier in my walk with the Lord, He taught me how to tell the difference between these two... He said, “Conviction brings a state of hope; Condemnation brings a state of hopelessness.” What this means is that when you just feel bad over what you did and are basically void of any hope of ever getting back on track- then rest assured, what you are experiencing is condemnation and not conviction.

You see, condemnation only yields death. It does nothing but beat you over the head for the mess you are in and does nothing to help you out. It will lay on you such a heavy burden, but not help you lift it even in the least. Condemnation will even try and ultimately cause you to despair of life in general. In other words, it will not stop with making you feel hopeless with your individual mistake. It will end up trying to make you feel hopeless about your Christian walk altogether. **Condemnation is a quitter!**

On the other hand, when you are receiving the conviction of the Holy Spirit, you will feel remorse, but it won’t be the kind of hopeless, guilt-infested sorrow that the world brings. You will sense hope to overcome, hope for change, and hope for forgiveness!

The way I personally can discern the conviction of the Holy Spirit is that I always end up feeling better after I receive it... During those times (which are more than I would like☺), I feel like I can genuinely say to the Holy Spirit, “Thank you sir! May I have another!?!” His loving and gracious rebukes do not make me feel like a failure... Instead they infuse me with a hope for repentance and also provide the way of escape at the same time (i.e. the “how to” in regards to repentance).

But my point is that the Holy Spirit’s commission to convict is a positive, life-giving commission and not something that we should dread. His is a commission of conviction, not condemnation!

HOLY GHOST JR.

Now allow me to take a little rabbit trail here... The ministry to convict is the Holy Spirit’s commission, not ours!

It is unfortunate, but there have been many believers that think that this is their ministry- to bring people under conviction. No, this is the Holy Spirit’s job, not ours. We are simply witnesses (see John 15:27 & Acts 1:8).

You see, a witness is not the judge or the jury. A witness just simply testifies of what they have seen, heard, or experienced. And just as sometimes a witness is needed to convict a lawbreaker in a court of law, a witness is needed to open the door for the Holy Spirit to convict an unbeliever of their sin in the kingdom of God. We, as witnesses, are not to point our finger at them; we are just to tell people what we’ve experienced and then let the Holy Spirit do the convicting.

Some people, in their zeal, have gone beyond the witness stand and tried to bring people under conviction themselves. This not only can frustrate the witness but it can drive many people away from God. We need to eliminate this “Holy Ghost Jr.” mentality of trying to convict people of their sins ourselves.

But the Holy Spirit does not just convict us of things pertaining to our walk like sin, righteousness, and judgment; He also is commissioned to convince and persuade (i.e. convict) us of other things pertaining to God.

The Bible tells us that He was sent to convince and prove to us that we are God’s children (Romans 8:15-16), of God’s love for us (Romans 5:5), and that God’s promises will come to pass (Ephesians 1:13-14 & 2 Corinthians 1:20-22). The terminology may differ in these verses, but they all denote the same thing as “convict.”

HIS COMMISSION IS TO REVEAL part one

Now that leads me into another one of the Holy Spirit’s commissions...

Jesus went on to say in the last part of John 16:13... “...and He will tell you things to come.” This illustrates the prophetic commission of the Holy Spirit. You see, He being a member of the Godhead and working together with the Father and the Son has complete omniscience and is willing to reveal to us future events.

This has a multitude of applications. It can range anywhere from revealing to us what awaits us in eternity to what awaits us tomorrow, for example, on our way to work. Let me explain...

First of all, He is commissioned to reveal to us the wonderful things that we have to look forward to in eternity (see Ephesians 1:18). This pertains to our heavenly inheritance (we will discuss this in detail later in this teaching).

Secondly, in regards to this life, His commission is to share with us His invaluable foreknowledge of upcoming disasters and hindrances so that we can always stay one step ahead of the devil. You see, if we will just learn to develop a high level of intimacy with the Holy Spirit, we can partake of this miraculous and beneficial commission of His. This is one of the many reasons why walking in communion of the Holy Spirit is so vital to the life of a Christian. There have been many Christians who have suffered or even died prematurely simply because they did not take advantage of this commission of the Holy Spirit to show them things to come.

WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD?

Then at the beginning of verse 14 notice how Jesus said- “He will glorify Me...”

I remember in a time of prayer several years ago how I was talking to the Holy Spirit and just began to praise Him for His goodness...

Now I had always heard that we are not supposed to praise the Holy Spirit, but I did not see that doctrine substantiated by the Scriptures. My thinking was that if He is a Member of the Godhead doesn't He deserve the same respect as Jesus and the Father? So from that rationale, I was telling the Holy Spirit how good He was, and then I heard in my heart- “Why do you call Me good? There is none good but God!” Of course, I knew that Jesus originally made this statement to the rich young ruler, but when I heard it in my heart, I knew the Holy Spirit was saying this to me.

Now, first of all, let me say that the Holy Spirit was not denying that He was God, just as Jesus was not denying this either when He originally made this statement. No, what both the Holy Spirit was saying to me and what Jesus was saying to this rich young ruler was- “Do not give Me the glory and praise that only the Father deserves!”

You see, although Jesus and the Holy Spirit are members of the Godhead, during their earthly ministries they came to the earth in the place of servants and are not here to be glorified. When Jesus was on the earth He always gave the glory to His Father because He was here on assignment. Well, now the Holy Spirit is here with the exact same assignment! Therefore, He is not here to receive our praise and worship. He is here to do what the Word said He was commissioned to do in John 14a- to glorify Jesus! You see, **the Holy Spirit was sent to glorify the One who sent Him (i.e. Jesus) just as Jesus was sent to glorify the One who sent Him (i.e. the Father).**

Therefore, while the Holy Spirit does deserve the utmost respect and reverence, we need to understand that He prefers to defer all praise and worship to Jesus- the One who finished His ministry on the earth and has been exalted to the right hand of God.

HIS COMMISSION IS TO REVEAL part two

Then Jesus concluded His teaching on the Holy Spirit's different commissions in John chapter 16 by saying- "...for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you." (verses 14-15)

On the surface, it is hard to understand exactly what Jesus was referring to in these verses, but I believe it becomes clearer when we compare it with what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:9-16...

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 the Apostle Paul starts off quoting Isaiah by saying, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

You know, there are many Christians today who love to quote this verse like it is some New Testament reality, but they forgot to quote the next statement... Paul went on to say in verse 10, "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit!"

You see, under the Old Covenant it was most certainly true that they could not even imagine what God had prepared for those who loved Him, but now under the New Covenant, we have the Holy Spirit who is specifically commissioned to reveal to us these things that God has in store for us! Praise God!

Paul went on to reiterate this in verse 12 by saying that the Holy Spirit was given to us so that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things that have been freely given to us are a direct reference to our inheritance!

Now remember in John 16:15 how Jesus said, "All things that the Father has are Mine"? He was specifically referring to the inheritance given to Him by His Father. So now that we have become children of God too- Jesus being the firstborn of many brethren- we have become joint heirs with Christ to "all things that the Father has" (see Romans 8:17)! And the Holy Spirit is specifically commissioned to reveal to us all the things that we are joint heirs of with Christ! Glory to God! This is part of what Jesus was referring to when He said that the Holy Spirit would "take of what is Mine and declare it to you."

Now, of course, the Holy Spirit is commissioned to declare and reveal to us more than just what God has in store for us... He also will declare to us other things that involve God's plan and purpose for our lives (as we have previously made short mention of already)!

In Romans 8:26-27 we are told that the Holy Spirit also intercedes on our behalf so that God's perfect will for our lives will come to pass. And one way He does this is by revealing or communicating to us the thoughts the Lord is thinking about us- thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give us a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11). So when Jesus said that the Holy Spirit will "take of Mine and declare it to you" He also meant that the Holy Spirit would declare to us what the mind of the Lord is. And the Apostle Paul went on to say this same thing in 1 Corinthians chapter two...

He concludes this teaching on the Holy Spirit's commission to reveal to us those things that were previously unknown by saying, "Who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ" (vs.16)! In other words, in the Old Covenant, when "eye had not seen, nor ear heard, nor had entered into the heart of man the things which God had prepared for those who love Him" (vs.9), they were unable to know the mind of the Lord. But now, under this new and better covenant, we have the Holy Spirit... And He has been commissioned to reveal the mind of the Lord to us! So when Paul said next in verse 16- "But we

have the mind of Christ”- it was just another way of saying- “But we have the Holy Spirit- Who declares to us the purpose and plan of Christ.” Hallelujah! **The Holy Spirit is the mind of Christ!**

So in John 16:14-15 when Jesus said, “He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you”, a good paraphrase would be... “He will honor Me, because He will share with you what I have (not only everything I possess in regards to My omniscience, but also everything I possess in regards to My inheritance). You see, everything that My Father possesses is Mine also. That is why I said that the Holy Spirit will share with you what I have.”

Therefore, the Holy Spirit’s commission is to reveal to us what is in the plan and purpose of Christ for our lives in everything from our inheritance in heaven to our calling on the earth.

IN CONCLUSION

Wow! We certainly do have a wonderful “Helper” under this New Covenant, don’t we? He is a major part of what makes this New Covenant we now live in a *better* covenant!

In this series on the Holy Spirit we have discussed enough of the benefits of His presence in our lives to keep us busy applying them for years. Let me quickly review what we have covered in this series...

- ✓ We started off talking about the The Communion of the Holy Spirit and we learned the importance of walking in constant fellowship with Him. We learned how important He was to the early church and how vital He is to our spiritual growth and development as well.
- ✓ Next, we went on to talk about The Advantage of the Holy Spirit and learned how us having the Holy Spirit is like the disciples having Jesus- only better! We learned how the Holy Spirit is like Jesus’ twin and has been sent to continue His ministry exactly on the earth.
- ✓ In the next part entitled The Commission of the Holy Spirit we learned how He is commissioned to teach and remind us of all the truth and to lead and guide us into all the truth. We also learned how He is also commissioned to reveal to us what we need to know- whether it be correction (i.e. convict), confirmation (i.e. bearing witness) or direction (i.e. showing us things to come).