

John 14: Jesus' "Father" Theology

Discipleship Fundamentals: The Holy Spirit

John 14.15-21

¹⁵ “If you love me, keep my commands. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹ Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. ²¹ Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them.”

Jesus' Discipleship Fundamentals

“If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth.”

- ❖ The first discipleship fundamental that Jesus presented was the connection between loving him and obeying his commands. The two are inseparably linked because every aspect of our relationship with Jesus is based on his relationship with the Father—*just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love.*
- ❖ The second fundamental is the indwelling presence and work of the Holy Spirit. His specific work is to reveal Jesus and bring us into a relationship that reveals Christ in and through us. Because he is the *Revealer*—Spirit of Truth—it is only possible to truly enter into the life of Jesus (who is the Truth) through the work of the Holy Spirit within one's life.

Jesus' "Another" Promise

"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth."

By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

JOHN 7.39

- ❖ Jesus has made a number of extraordinary promises; now he promises to *"ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth."* This is the first of five such references that Jesus will make in this conversation with his disciples (14.16; 14.26; 15.26; 16.7; 16.13-15).
- ❖ With this statement, Jesus firmly establishes the doctrine of the Trinity, and presents the Holy Spirit as the indispensable spiritual Helper and Guide for his disciples.

14.16 And I will ask the Father,
and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—
17 the Spirit of Truth.

Jesus' Holy Spirit teaching

The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him.

But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit,
whom the Father will send in my name,
will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

15.26 When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—
the Spirit of Truth who goes out from the Father—
he will testify about me.

16.7 Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you;
but if I go, I will send him to you.

8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment . . .

16.13 But when he, the Spirit of Truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.
He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears,
and he will tell you what is yet to come.

14 He will glorify me because it is from me
that he will receive what he will make known to you.

15 . . . the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.

The Holy Spirit

“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of Truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.”

- ❖ In this first reference, Jesus used two of the three names that he would ascribe to the Holy Spirit as indications of his work: *Counselor* and *Spirit of Truth*.
- ❖ “Counselor” (*parakletos*) – *para*: “alongside” and *kletos*: “called”—the Holy Spirit is *the One Called Alongside*, as a Friend, Teacher, Enabler. Jesus had taught and guided his disciples for three years; now he was returning to the Father (13.1); he would not, however, leave his disciples bereft of his help and guidance; he would ask the Father to send “another Counselor” in his place, the Spirit of Truth.
- ❖ The Spirit is not a force or an influence but a person, as is the Father and the Son. As such, he is knowable, relatable and companionable—but only to true believers.

- ❖ The Holy Spirit's presence was not unknown to the disciples; the evidence of his presence and anointing had been conspicuously apparent at the baptism of Jesus (Luke 3.22; John 1.32-33) and throughout his ministry (cf. Luke 4.14-21; Matthew 12.28). The Holy Spirit lived in Jesus (thus, he is the "Spirit of Christ" – Romans 8.9)—and Jesus lived with the disciples—"*But you know him, for he lives with you . . .*"
- ❖ Jesus was externally present with his disciples, but the Spirit would reside within true disciples of Christ: "*and will be in you.*" This was the experience of those who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ on the Day of Pentecost. The indwelling work of the Spirit is to reveal Christ and to guide the believer into the truth of Christ; thus, he is known as the "Spirit of Truth"—the One who reveals Jesus as the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and who enables the believer to: follow the *Way* of Christ, to obey the *Truth* of Christ, and to live the *Life* of Christ (cf. John 14.6).

► What is the “Way” of Christ?

It is the way of surrender, humility, servanthood, sacrificial love.

► What is the “Truth” of Christ?

It is to truthfully represent Christ: obeying his commands and loving one another as he loved; to speak only his words even as he spoke only the Father’s words.

► What is the “Life” of Christ?

It is to live in Jesus, as Jesus lived in the Father; to live a life without a hint of self-initiative or ambition; a life that seeks to be yielded to the Spirit’s sanctifying and enabling presence (cf. Hebrews 9.14).

❖ Wealth, personal, educational, or business success are never the marks of one who is “Spirit-ually” alive in Christ. *The true proof of true “Spirit-ual” discipleship will be a life that reflects the likeness and the priorities of Jesus Christ.*

The touchstone of the Holy Spirit's work in us is to answer our Lord's question: "Who do men say that the Son of Man is?" Our Lord makes human destiny depend on that one thing, who men say He is, because the revelation of who Jesus is, is only given by the Holy Spirit.

—*Oswald Chambers*