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Resurrection Postlude Part 2  
**Jesus' Promise of the Holy Spirit**  
John 14:16-18; 16:5-15

**Introduction**

While John chapter 14 regularly is read as a comforting passage at many funerals, the context is not about comfort to believers at a time of the death of a loved one. Jesus was about to leave His disciples and He gave them these words of assurance about His impending departure. He promised not leave the disciples as "orphans," having no leader, John 14:18. Instead, He promised them another "helper," Greek παρακλητος *paraklitos*, meaning a helper, comforter, advocate, or one called to come to the aid of someone in need. The advocate was "the spirit of truth," who is the Holy Spirit about whom Jesus said, "you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you," John 14:17. He also added that it will be "to your advantage that I go away" because the Holy Spirit would then be sent to be with them and in them, John 16:7.

**Jesus and the Holy Spirit**

Jesus is fully God and fully human. The Holy Spirit is fully divine and is the third member of the triune nature of God. He is a person, and He is regarded as God in Scripture as one of the three in one, see John 14:20. The great expositor F. B. Meyer notes there is a sevenfold parallel between Jesus and the Holy Spirit, see *Gospel of John*, London: Oliphants, First Lakeland Edition, 1970, pp. 235-238.

1. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit were active in the Old Testament. Before Jesus' incarnation He appeared in the Old Testament as the Angel of the Lord, see e.g. Gen 16:7-10; 22:11-13; Exod 3:1-8; Josh 5:13-15; Judg 13:1-25. Likewise, the Holy Spirit was active with Christ in creation, Gen 1:2b; Col 1:15-17. He also equipped leaders, kings, and prophets for their ministries, Judg, 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6, 19; 15:14, 19; 1 Sam 16:13; 1 Kgs 18:12; 2 Kgs 2:9. Peter and the writer of Hebrews tell us He moved holy men of God to write Scripture, 2 Peter 1:21; Heb 3:7-11.
2. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit were announced before their New Testament appearance. Jesus' advent, born of the virgin Mary, was announced by Isaiah 600 years before His coming, Isa 7:14. After Israel is restored to the Land, Joel prophesied that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh who repent of their sins, see Joel 2:12-14; 28-29, a prediction of Pentecost, Acts 2:16-21.
3. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit occupied human bodies. Jesus was a miraculous incarnation of God in human form, Matt 1:21-23. The Holy Spirit also existed in the body of Christ, Isa 61:1; Luke 4:18-19. The Holy Spirit also entered and empowered the church, as the body of Christ, Acts 2:4.

4. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit were named before their New Testament appearance. Jesus was named "Immanuel," God with us, in Isaiah 7:14. He was also named, "Miraculous Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace," in Isaiah 9:6-7. The Spirit of God is named "Holy Spirit" in Psalm 51:11; Isaiah 63:10-11; Daniel 4:8, 9, 18; 5:11.
5. Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and the Father are interdependent. Jesus declared He could do nothing by Himself without the help of the Father, John 5:30. Likewise Jesus declared that the Holy Spirit "will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it unto you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it unto you," John 16:14-15.
6. Both Jesus and the Holy Spirit received the positive witness of the Father. There are three times we hear the voice of the Father affirming the ministry of His Son with "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." First, this occurred at Jesus' baptism, Matt 3:17. Second, it occurred at the transfiguration, Matt 17:5. Third, God's voice of approval occurred when a group of Greeks asked Him about His death. Jesus saw their coming as a signal that His death on the cross would provide salvation for Jews and Gentiles, John 12:22-36. The Holy Spirit was commended by John the Baptist as an extension of the ministry of Jesus, Matt 3:11.
7. The presence of Jesus and the Holy Spirit are assured in the present day. Jesus assured His disciples [and us] that He would be with them [and us] "even to the end of the age," Matt 28:20. Likewise, Jesus assured the disciples [and us] that the Holy Spirit would abide with them [and us] forever, "I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever," John 14:16. The ministry of Jesus and the Holy Spirit continues forever.

The work of the Holy Spirit perfectly complements the work of our Lord Jesus. His ministry is to "glorify the Son," John 16:14. Therefore, as the empowering force within the church, He enables us "to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace," Eph 4:3.

### **Benefits and Responsibilities of the Coming of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit accomplishes at least eight things in the life of every believer:

1. Indwells Believers. The Holy Spirit's presence within the life of every believer is an advantage that brings the wisdom of God and the power of God to every believer, 16:5-7. Because of Calvary, all believers receive the benefits of redemption and access to God by the Holy Spirit, see Rom 8:1-39; Gal 4:4-6. When Jesus completed His earthly ministry and departed, He opened the way for the coming of the Holy Spirit, whose ministry it is to apply the saving merits of Christ to the hearts and lives of believers, Acts 2:32-36. Because the Spirit indwells believers, they are the temple of God, a fact that should effect holiness in the conduct of believers, 1 Cor 6:19-20; 2 Cor 6:11-18.

2. **Assists Believers**. The Holy Spirit came in response to the departure of Christ to assist believers in His absence, John 16: 7b. As long as Jesus was here in the flesh, He did not indwell every believer. But, when He departed, He promised to indwell the life of every believer. Both the Father, John 15:26, and the Son, John 16:7b, sent the Holy Spirit as a "convicter," comforter, and helper to all who believe. This means a believer doesn't have to hold out because Christ in the Holy Spirit holds on, Rom 8:4, 10-11, 35-39. Also, the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts, 1 Cor 12:1-31, and equips believers to do the work they are called to do, Eph 4:8-11.
3. **Convicts Believers & Others**. The Holy Spirit's primary work is to convict of sin, expose ungodliness and call people to repentance. His work of conviction involves three things, John 16:8-11.
- **Sin** - He will expose sin and call it to repentance. People today avoid the word "sin," and as Ivor Powell states, they tend to be politically correct and "prefer to speak of it as *undeveloped good*," Powell, *John's Wonderful Gospel*, Grand Rapids: Kregel, p. 339. Jesus added the reason for the need to convict of sin, which is "they do not believe in me," 16:8b. How is it that so much of the cruelty that is perpetrated in our world today is done by supposedly non-violent Islam in the name of religion? Even some of the non-violent religions, such as Hinduism, are willing to accept violence within their caste system. Jesus said it is "because they do not believe," literally "do not have faith," in Me. James adds that it is because those who sin and commit violent acts are not under the control of the Holy Spirit, James 4:1-6.
  - **Righteousness** - God loves the sinner, but His holiness detests sin. Redemptive righteousness is the mediator that brings a lost sinner and a holy God together. That is why salvation, God's redeeming grace, is only available in Jesus Christ. He alone gave Himself, once for all, as redemption for us, see Heb 9:28; 10:10. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our need for righteousness. Jesus said, " . . . because I go to My Father." What has Jesus' going to sit at the right hand of God to do with our need for righteousness? It has everything to do with it! Jesus sits as our Great and Compassionate High Priest, Heb 4:14-16. He is able to save to the uttermost and ever lives to make intercession for believers, Heb 7:25. Read Romans 3:21-26 and 5:1-21, and you will see that we have been given imputed righteousness from the throne of heaven as a love gift in Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin that He might convince us of the righteousness that comes by faith in Christ, Rom 5:8-9; 8:11-17, 26-39.
  - **Judgment** - There are only two options for every person. One is to trust God for salvation through Jesus Christ alone. The other option belongs to everyone who does not receive Jesus as Savior, even if by default. In this rejection they choose to receive the judgment of God, see John 3:16-18. Jesus didn't come into the world to condemn it; it already was condemned because of sin and Satan. Jesus delivered the fatal blow to the works of Satan at Calvary where Satan was exposed, judged, and defeated forever.
4. **Guides Believers**. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth, and He will guide believers into all truth, 16:13a. The Holy Spirit has an intimate connection with

the Word of God. He inspired the writers of Scripture, 2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Pet 1:19-21. Who else can better reveal the true interpretation of a word, verse, or passage? The Bible also contains the mind and truth of God, and the Spirit reveals it to us and guides us with it, see 1 Cor 2:9-16. Believers therefore are responsible to live Spirit-filled lives, filled with Scripture Eph 5:17; Col 3:16.

5. **Reveals God's Will**. The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears from the Father and the Son, He will make known, 16:13b. The Holy Spirit is the consummate communicator of the will of God for believers. You cannot know the plan, purpose, and calling for your life without His communication. He reveals five things that are God's will for you: (1) It is God's will that you be saved, 1 Tim 2:3-4; Rom 12:1-2; (2) It is God's will that you be Spirit-filled, Eph 5:17-18; Col 3:16; (3) It is God's will that you be sanctified, 1 Thess 4:3; 5:23; (4) It is God's will that you be submissive, 1 Pet 2:13-15; and (5) It is God's will that you be willing to suffer, 1 Pet 4:19; 3:13-17; see John MacArthur, *Found: God's Will*, Wheaton: Victor Books, 1973. When your life is on track with these five things, the Holy Spirit will have the freedom to reveal to you all things necessary to fulfill your calling.
6. **Reveals Things to Come**. The Holy Spirit will reveal things to come, 16:13c. He directs believers so that they will see what is coming and plan accordingly. This is not about foretelling the future like a fortuneteller, but knowing the will of God for the days ahead. Some things are revealed in the Word, such as end time events like those found in Matthew 24:1-44 and the Book of Revelation. The Holy Spirit guides our understanding of these things as well. But, He also shows us the principles for living each day until Jesus' return.
7. **Speaks about Jesus**. The Holy Spirit will glorify Christ, not Himself, 16:14-15. The irony of many groups who make much over the work of the Holy Spirit and magnify the Holy Spirit is that the Holy Spirit says plainly He would not call attention to Himself, but He will glorify Christ and the Father. The Holy Spirit will only declare that which pertains to Jesus and the Father, 16:15. A person who is Spirit-filled will make much of Jesus and the Father.
8. **Empowers Believers**. Where do we get the power to live holy, Spirit-filled, and productive lives for the Lord? Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as a helper forever, John 14:16. He told them not to depart Jerusalem but to await the Promise of the Father, Acts 1:4. So on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came to empower the church to accomplish the work, Acts 2:1-47; 1 Cor 2:4-5. Before Jesus ascended, He promised the authority and power necessary to do His work, Matt 28:18-20.

## **Conclusion**

Jesus and the Holy Spirit are the second and third persons of the triune nature of God the Father. They are interdependent with each other and the Father. The Holy Spirit complements the work of Jesus the Son. Through the Holy Spirit Jesus indwells, assists, convicts, guides, reveals God's will, reveals things to come, speaks of Jesus and the Father, and empowers believers.