

The Holy Spirit Our Helper

Dear Friend,

So many approach church attendance like the ducks that Soren Kierkegaard described, “Every Sunday the ducks waddle out of their houses and waddle down Main Street to their church. They waddle into the sanctuary and squat in their proper pews. The duck choir waddles in and takes its place, then the duck minister comes forward and opens the duck bible. He reads to them: ‘Ducks! God has given you wings! With wings you can fly! With wings you can mount up and soar like eagles. No walls can confine you! No fences can hold you! You have wings. God has given you wings and you can fly like birds! All the ducks shouted, ‘Amen!’ As the ducks left the service they commented on what a wonderful sermon it was. And they all waddled home”

If you are tired, like I am, of just waddling through life when God has created us to fly like eagles then we must let the Holy Spirit, our Helper do His work in our lives. Jesus promises in John 14:26, “But the Helper, 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.

From the very first passage in the Scriptures (Genesis 1:1) to the last chapter in the Bible, Rev.22, we see our Helper, the Holy Spirit at work. In the same way that when, “the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters,”(Gen.1:1) even so the Helper is there to bring order in the midst of the darkness, chaos and confusion in our lives.

In Rev.22:17 we read, “The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come!’ And let him who hears say, ‘Come!’ Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” John 7:37, 38 tells us that this water of life is Jesus Christ: “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

Let us come now and drink of this living water that Christ provides as we receive the power from on high, for He has promised in Acts 1:8, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”

Experiencing this power involves first accepting Jesus as Lord and Christ in every area of our lives. In John 14:6 He declares, “No one comes to the Father but by Me.” Acts 4:12 declares, “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men (and women) by which we must be saved.”

The Helper known as the Holy Spirit directs us to Jesus Christ, “For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority” (Col.2:9, 10).

The Holy Spirit, our Helper, wants to awaken us to the fact that we are not losers, just struggling to make it through each day, because all of God's resources are available to us through Jesus. "How much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ."(Roman 5:17)

Jesus considered the Holy Spirit the Greatest Gift given by the Father. "If you then, though you are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"(Luke 11:13)

The first condition for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit involves our realization of the great value of this gift of the Helper that we are requesting. Without the Holy Spirit we live ineffective, joyless lives. As we hunger and thirst for meaning in life, we realize we are hungering and thirsting for the Holy Spirit who can lead us to the rivers of living water provided through Jesus Christ.

When we ask for the power and help from on high, given by the Spirit of Life, we know, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of Him."(1 John 5:14, 15)

As we pray believing for the Helper to come upon us in a new and powerful way, we discover His help in our prayer life and in many other areas. "Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now he who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."(Romans 8:26, 27)

Read Is.61:1-11 and see how, when the Helper, the Spirit of the Lord comes upon someone, they receive the power to bring good news to the oppressed, bind up those who are broken-hearted, proclaim liberty to those held captive, comfort those who mourn, and awaken a song of praise in the faint-hearted.

Those empowered by the Spirit (referred to in Is.61:1 as the Spirit of the Lord is upon me) find they are not just performing some sort of good deed but an act of establishing righteousness and justice. "For I, the Lord, love justice; I hate robbery and iniquity."(Is.61:8)

Michael Welker has stated, "The action of the Spirit leads to a knowledge of God compatible with justice and mercy and their reciprocal determination and to a corresponding specification of, and commitment on the part of the community."

The Helper for radical equality for all people that we see in Joel 2:28-32 is the Holy Spirit. For God has promised in the midst of monumental catastrophes, "I will pour out My Spirit on all people."

The weak, the powerless, the hopeless are recipients of new life through the love of God and the power of the Helper, the Holy Spirit. The action of the Helper occurs for the benefits of the economically weak and the socially disadvantaged.

Those who are crushed to the extent that they are no longer able to dream dreams or see visions or prophecy hope are promised, “I will pour out My Spirit on all people, your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men see visions. Even on My servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days. I will show wonders in the heavens and on the earth, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”(Joel 2:28-32)

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, you can also call on the name of the Lord. The Holy Spirit will help you to hear the voice of Jesus and abide in His presence. You can remain steadfast, immovable, abounding in the work of the Lord.

Refuse to let bitterness make your heart as hard as stone. Let the dream the Holy Spirit has given you come forth. Stand on the promises of God.

You may presently be facing what seems like overwhelming difficulties, but stop complaining. Continue to move forward by faith through the power of the Holy Spirit and watch and wait. In the end you will see the Holy Spirit do exceedingly beyond what you can ask or think! It is a guarantee signed, sealed and delivered through the blood of Jesus Christ, which cleanses you of all sin.

Let us now receive this power from our Helper, the Holy Spirit. His coming will bless, strengthen and invigorate us for servicing both God and those in need.

Through Christ, may the promise that God gives in Ezekiel 36:25, 26 become ours this very day. “I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.”

As the promise of Ezekiel 36 unfolds in your life you will find the heart of stone, that reflected indifference to the needs of others, begin to melt and a new caring heart of compassion come forth.

We see this miracle unfolding in Ezekiel 37 as the Spirit comes upon a valley of dry, dead bones. When this happens life comes into these bones and an army of compassionate people comes forth.

Let us ask God to send the Helper, the Holy Spirit upon us in a new and powerful way. He will strengthen us as He brings forth order out of the chaos and stress of daily living.

At this time may our prayer be, “Heavenly Father, please send the Holy Spirit. Come, my promised Helper, and infuse within me the power from on high. Guide me, direct me and empower me so that I may be an instrument of healing and hope in the lives of the hurting and homeless. Precious Jesus, please replace the fear in my life with faith that I may be filled with the holy boldness that came upon Peter in Acts 4:8 and the other believers in Acts 4:31.

As Jurgen Moltmans has said, “The whole creation is a fabric woven by the Spirit, and is therefore a reality to which the Spirit gives form.” As we receive this reality of the power of our Helper and Empowerer from on high, we receive the power to share God’s love provided through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This power enables us to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, confront and drive out, through the name of Jesus, principalities and powers, heal the sick and proclaim liberty to the captives. The end result is that Christ may be glorified and recognized as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. (Matt.28:18-20, Luke 24:49, John 5:23, John 15:26-27).

The help and power provided by the Helper, the Holy Spirit, means more than strength or ability. The movement of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts in the lives of believers resulted in their ability to witness with great boldness (Acts 4:29) united as one and freed from slavery to possessions (Acts 4:32).

“With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and much grace was upon them all. There were no needy persons among them.”(Acts 4:33, 34)

Study the book of Acts, my brothers and sisters, and see for yourself what help is available when we receive this power and help provided through the Holy Spirit. No longer will we waddle into church Sunday after Sunday only to waddle home again with nothing but a quack on our lips.

Those receiving the power of the Spirit will proclaim the good news of Christ resurrection with power and authority. The Helper will work through them to perform many signs, wonders and miracles. (See Acts 2:43; 5:12-16; 6:8; 8:6-8; 14:3; 19:11-12) Great results will take place as the Holy Spirit moves through lives surrendered to Jesus Christ. (See Acts 4:4; 6:7; 8:8, 9:33-35; 11:21,24; 12:24; 14:21; 16:5; 19:10,20)

Don’t let those who don’t believe tell you that miracles only happened in the past. Jesus Himself declared, “I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask Me anything in My name, and I will do it. If you love Me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor (Helper) to 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.”(John 14:12-17)

Now my dear friends, let us take Jesus at His word and receive the Third Person of the Trinity, our promised Helper, the Spirit of Truth and Life. Let Him this day baptize you in a new and powerful way in the love and power of the Living God.

Yours in Christ,

