

John 15:26-27, 16:5-15 (ESV)
Help Me Holy Spirit

As we navigate the complexities of life, it's easy to feel lost or overwhelmed. Discouragement and fear are a constant foe in an ever-changing and uncertain world. Yet, we are reminded of a promise spoken long ago. The promise of the Helper sent from the Father. And this promise resonates through time. It's a promise of guidance, of truth, and of illumination amid an ever-changing and uncertain world. This Helper, the Spirit of Truth, God's Holy Spirit is not distant or inaccessible. He is a divine presence and an assurance that we are never alone. The Holy Spirit is our constant companion, leading us into all truth and declaring the mysteries of the Divine. By His guidance, we find clarity, purpose, and the eternal truth that transcends all understanding. By His presence, disciples of Jesus are not overcome by discouragement or fear. He is indeed our help in all matters of life. With this said, I want to share this morning three ways I see in the text that the Holy Spirit helps us.

First, He makes sure the testimony of the Apostles in our hearts. V26

²⁶ "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me." We believe what scripture declares regarding Jesus' identity and his work only by the power of the Holy Spirit. That is to say, we know this faith we have was not achieved by mere intellectual assent or personal effort. No one comes to faith by his or her own volition. No one enters God's kingdom by his or her own efforts. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. This is the ministry and work of the Holy Spirit. Yes, we thank God for our institutions of higher learning. Church School, University, and

Seminary have their place but neither alone can make sure the testimony of the Apostles in our hearts. So, we must pray always, "Help me Holy Spirit", for our institutions of higher learning alone cannot bring one to faith in Jesus the Christ.

Acts 1:8 "8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Titus 3:4-7 "4 But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life."

John 3:3-7, 9-10 "3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." 4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" 5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'... 9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?"

Second, He opens, to us, the way of God. V7-11 7 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 go, I will send him to you. 8 And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: 9 concerning sin, because they do

not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” The Holy Spirit opens to us the way of God by convicting us of our sinfulness and imminent judgement, less we turn in faith to God’s Son, Jesus. It is the Holy Spirit that convicts opening the door to belief in one’s heart. Yes, preaching, teaching and other evangelistic endeavors are necessary, but these endeavors would fall desperately short apart from the anointing power of God’s Holy Spirit. For it is His anointing power that breathes life into our endeavors, infusing them with divine power. And yes, the ministry we conduct in the name of our Lord and Savior matters. But our activity alone is not enough to open the way of God to others. So, we pray always, “Help me Holy Spirit”, because without His power all our efforts would be in vain.

1 Cor 2:4-5 “³I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. ⁴And my message and my preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I relied only on the power of the Holy Spirit. ⁵I did this so you would trust not in human wisdom but in the power of God.” **NLT**

Romans 15:18-19 “¹⁸For I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me to bring the Gentiles to obedience—by word and deed, ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God—so that from Jerusalem and all the way around to Illyricum I have fulfilled the ministry of the gospel of Christ;”

2 Peter 1:19-21 “¹⁹And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture

comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹ For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”

Third and final, the Holy Spirit teaches us. V12-15 ¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” Are there truths regarding God, Jesus, and/or the Holy Spirit that you struggle with? That you simply cannot wrap your mind around? Do you have questions that have yet to be answered? I say to you this morning, all you need to know, right now, to believe God has made known to you by His Holy Spirit. That which you do not understand you don't need to. And the unanswered questions you have do not need answers. At least, not at this juncture in your faith journey. Trust that as you grow in faith the things you need to understand and the questions you need answered God will provide that understanding and the answers by His Holy Spirit. Whatever your faith struggles remain vigilant in your reading and study of God's word and pray always, “Help me Holy Spirit”, for we can never know all there is to know about God and some questions can't be answered, but what we need to know to believe in God's Son, Jesus, God has given to us.

Deut 29:29 ““The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

Acts 1:6-8 “⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷ He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

John 5:37-40 “³⁷And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen, ³⁸and you do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.”

Help us Holy Spirit! In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen.