

## 57. Jesus Promised to Send Another Helper

In our last topic, we saw that we want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that Jesus said that His followers would do greater works than He did. This is due to the fact that as Christians we have been commissioned to take the Gospel to the end of the earth. However, we cannot do that in our own strength. As a result, we are going to see in this topic that Jesus promised to send another Helper.

Jesus had just told the disciples that He was returning to the Father. He had also told them that they and others who would follow would do greater works. As a result, Jesus wanted the disciples to know that He would be available in heaven to help them. As a result, Jesus gave the disciples a wonderful promise about prayer. John 14:13-14 says, ““And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do *it*.”” Here, we see that Jesus assured the disciples that they would not be forgotten when He returned to the Father.

John explained this promise in more detail for all Christians when he wrote in 1 John 5:14-15, ““Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him.”” Here, we see that the statement in John applies to all Christians and not just to the disciples there that night. These verses show that we are can have this confidence as we pray according to the will of God and not for selfish purposes. We can know that God will hear us when we pray according to the will of God. We can also know that God will grant our petitions when we pray according to the will of God.

Jesus also told the disciples why He would answer their prayers. We see that He will answer our prayers so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. In His prayer to the Father, Jesus said in John 17:4, ““I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”” Jesus prayed this prayer just a few hours before He went to the cross. As a result, Jesus is not talking about His death and resurrection in this verse. The work that the Father gave Jesus to do while He was on this earth was to prepare the disciples to take the Gospel to the end of the earth.

Christ gave us that same commission in Matthew 28:19-20 which says, ““Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.’ Amen.”” In these verses, we have one command, “Make Disciples.” We carry out that command by doing three things: going, baptizing, and teaching those baptized to obey all that Jesus commanded us. We will also bring glory to both the Father and the Son as we are obedient. As we do the will of God and carry out the commands of Jesus, we have been promised that the Lord will answer our prayers.

Jesus then gave a second promise to the disciples so that they would not be alone when Jesus returned to heaven. We see that Jesus promised to send another Helper. John 14:15-18 says, ““If

you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” Jesus told the disciples that night that if they loved Him they would keep His commandments. That same thing is true for us in our lives.

However, we cannot keep the commandments of Jesus in our own strength. As a result, Jesus said that He would pray and ask the Father to give us another Helper. That Helper is the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 1:13-14 says, “In Him you also *trusted*, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.” We were sealed with the Holy Spirit at the moment of our salvation as the down payment and guarantee of our eternal salvation. We see the first promise that we have about the Holy Spirit is that He will abide with us forever. That is a guarantee that we cannot lose our salvation.

However, the Holy Spirit does much more for us than just guarantee our salvation. We see that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. John 14:26 says, “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.” The Holy Spirit teaches us and guides us into all truth so that we can grow spiritually. He also brings to our remembrance the things that Jesus taught while He was here on the earth. As a result, we can depend on the Holy Spirit to teach us moment by moment and also to bring the Scriptures that we have studied to our remembrance so that we can give an answer from the Scriptures to the questions that others ask us day by day.

The world cannot receive this understanding from the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:12-14 says, “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.” The world cannot see the Holy Spirit. The world cannot know the Holy Spirit. As a result, the world cannot be taught by the Holy Spirit.

In contrast, Jesus promised the disciples that they could know the Holy Spirit. Jesus reminded the disciples that the Holy Spirit was already present with them. The Spirit has always been present in the world. Genesis 1:2 says, “The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God *was* hovering over the face of the waters.” However, soon the Holy Spirit would be living within their human spirit. John 7:38-39 says, “‘He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” Jesus promised that He would not leave the disciples alone so they did not have to fear that they would be orphans. Instead, Hebrews 13:5 promises,

“*Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*”

Jesus then reminded the disciples that they and we show our love by obedience to Him. John 14:19-21 says, “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” Jesus said that in just a very short time the people of the world would not see Him again.

However, Jesus promised the disciples that they would see Him. Scripture gives us a total of at least ten appearances of Jesus after His resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:6 says, “After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.” Christ assured the disciples that they would also live because of the fact that Jesus lived. The resurrection of Jesus means that all who have repented of the sin of unbelief and placed their faith in Jesus have eternal life. In fact, we are given the Holy Spirit as a down payment and guarantee of that life.

Jesus promised the disciples that when they saw Him after the resurrection they would understand their relationship to the Father. We see that Jesus is in the Father. In His prayer to the Father, in John 17:22-23, Jesus said, “And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” However, Jesus also told the disciples that they were in Him and He was in them. That relationship is true for all Christians because John 17:21 says, “That they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.”

Jesus said that those who keep His commandments are those who love Him. The word translated “keep” means *to carefully observe and obey*. Here, Jesus made it clear that the way we show our love to Him is by obeying the commandments that He has given to us. However, Jesus also gives a wonderful promise to all those who obey His commandments. He said that every individual who loves Him will be loved by the Father. In addition, Jesus will do two things for all those who love Him. Jesus said that He will love them. Second, Jesus said that He will manifest Himself to them. The word translated “manifest” means *to show or reveal*. Jesus promises to reveal Himself to all those who love Him.

We want to help our physical and spiritual children understand that Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit as a Helper to all those who come to Jesus in repentance and faith. In addition, we want to help them understand that the way that we respond to the love of Jesus for us is by asking the Holy Spirit to give us His strength to obey the commands that Jesus gave. May the Lord richly bless you as you help your children to grow in their understanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their lives.