

## **2009#21 GOSPEL OF JOHN –THE PROMISED HOLY SPIRIT**

### **John 14:15-21,**

Today we look at the beginning of the church,  
The sending of the Holy Spirit as Comfort and encouragement to new believers.

We all look for some comfort or encouragement because  
This world can be a cold and isolating place.  
Every one of us has felt alone and sometimes afraid.  
What a blessing is a voice of encouragement or a  
Hand of comfort.

#### **Newborn babies need to feel comfort and safety.**

A public-health nurse was teaching new parents how to care for their infants.  
As she demonstrated how to wrap a newborn baby in a blanket,  
a young Asian mother turned to her and said,  
"You mean we should wrap the baby like an egg roll?"  
The Nurse said "Yes, that is a good analogy."  
But immediately a concerned Latino mother in the class said:  
"I don't know how to make egg rolls, can I wrap my baby like a burrito?"

Whether we wrap our baby like an egg roll, a burrito, or a pig in a blanket.  
A baby wants to feel secure  
And a young mother wants to be encouraged that she is doing it right.

In the rush of a mighty wind and with tongues of fire,  
The Holy Spirit of God entered into the world on the  
Day of Pentecost.  
The Spirit came to comfort and encourage,  
And His presence had an immediate effect.  
The disciples preached with confidence.  
People eagerly listened.  
Thousands were baptized.  
And the church was born.  
And we are still feeling the power of the Holy Spirit  
And the promises of Jesus .  
First of all Jesus gave us

#### **I. THE PROMISE OF COMFORT**

Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the counselor, or comforter, who will be with you forever.

**<sup>15</sup>"If you love me, you will obey what I command. <sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another (Comforter) Counselor to be with you forever— <sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth.**

Whenever we are in discomfort,  
Be it sin, an act toward another, or in a reproof of another in regard to sin,  
God will grant us peace and comfort.

**7 So let me say it again, this truth: It's better for you that I leave. If I don't leave, the Friend won't come. But if I go, I'll send him to you. 8 "When he comes, he'll expose the error of the godless world's view of sin, righteousness, and judgment: 9 He'll show them that their refusal to believe in me is their basic sin; John 16:7-9**

It is the Holy Spirit that teaches us not to  
 Worry about anything,  
 Not to be afraid,  
 Not to be discouraged.  
 Not to give up,  
 That is the Spirit of the resurrected Christ that is within us.

Jesus gave the Holy Spirit two special names.  
 “Another comforter”  
 And the “Spirit of Truth”  
 Don’t take these as idle words to us today.

The Greek word translated “Comforter” is parakletos  
 And it is used only by John --It means called alongside to assist.  
 The Holy Spirit does not work instead of us,  
 Or in spite of us,  
 But in us and through us.  
 Our English word **Comfort** comes from two Latin words  
 Meaning “**with Strength**”

No other power in the world can sustain us like the Holy Spirit.  
 Take the Japanese pastor that lived in Hiroshima, Japan.  
 When that explosion took place about 500 yards up in the air,  
 a city lay in ruins, and 200,000 people were wiped out.  
 As the pastor stood amidst those ruins he pointed to a vacant spot and said.  
 “That was where my house stood.  
 In front of it my wife and child were standing.  
 I came with them to the city with nothing to begin life over again,  
 Absolutely nothing but Christ.”  
 That would spell absolute tragedy to anyone.  
 But suppose that pastor had come back to begin life over again with nothing,  
 Not even Christ.  
 Then the tragedy would have been eternal  
 He said: “With Christ we can come back from anything.  
 Yes anything.”

True comfort strengthens us to face life bravely and keep on going.  
 It does not rob us of responsibility or make it easy for us to give up.

#### THE PROMISE OF COMFORT

#### **II. THE PROMISE OF PRESENCE.**

The greatest reward of being a Christian is the presence of Christ within.

**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 14:17**

Jesus says the Holy Spirit will live in you.  
 The Christians source of joy is from deep within.  
**Your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:3**  
 The Holy Spirit abides deep within the Christian,  
 The Spirit of Truth is an every flowing spring in our lives.

A lady wrote to ESJones.  
 "I have been confused.  
 But I have been reading your books about abundant lie,  
 I read your book about the Way.  
 Finally I let go and opened up my life to God.  
 Something happened down in me,  
 And I am not confused any more.  
 I just want you to know something happened on the inside,  
 A great change.  
 I don't have my inferiority complex any more.  
 I am changed to the fingertips.  
 I can't tell you how I feel,  
 but, I feel good.  
 I just wanted you to know  
 There is something different within me."

The Christian has more joy to the square inch  
 Than others have to the square mile.  
 It is pure joy without a kickback to it.

There is no hangover.  
 I won't get up tomorrow morning and say  
 Eldon-- Why were you a Christian last night?  
 What made you do it?  
 I'll won't get up with a groan, but a grin,  
 A smile to know the Spirit of truth in the living God  
 Is within me.

We are not alone  
 Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to come to us.  
**I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. John 14:18**

If we want the HS to work in our lives we must ask him in,  
 And then seek to glorify Christ in all our living.  
**Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. John 14:23**

Paul writes in Eph. 5:18-6:9 and Colossians 3:16-21  
 That the Christian life should be  
 Joyful, thankful, and submissive.  
 That is what being filled with the Spirit does to us.  
**So be careful how you live. Don't live like ignorant people, but like wise people.  
 Make good use of every opportunity you have, because these are evil days.  
 Don't be fools, then, but try to find out what the Lord wants you to do. Ephesians  
 5:15-17**

To be filled with the spirit is the same  
 As to be controlled by the Word of God.  
 The Spirit of Truth and the Word of truth  
 guide us to the Work of Truth in God.  
 THE PROMISE OF HIS COMFORT

THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE.

### III. THE PROMISE OF HIS WORDS

Every Christian has experienced disappointment in themselves,  
For not speaking up when they should.

Maybe you had been praying for someone.  
Then the opportunity came and the question was posed.  
And you sidestepped it,  
You took the easy way out.  
And later you lived with the guilt of it.  
Oh if we could only have a do over in many life situations.

It's not easy to live a bold Christian life in this world.  
Christians are laughed at and mocked in the media and market place.  
But we can take heart.  
For God has promised his words.  
Jesus said:

**"All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Counselor, 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. John 14:25-26**

When we are called to defend our faith.  
We don't need to be concerned about what to say  
But we do need to be willing to take a risk.

**Jesus said:**

**When they drag you into their meeting places, or into police courts and before judges, don't worry about defending yourselves--what you'll say or how you'll say it. The right words will be there. The Holy Spirit will give you the right words when the time comes." Luke 12:11-12 message**

Jesus says" The Holy Spirit helps us to express and  
to remind us from the heart what our relationship is with God.

Think about it: If Jesus, while he was on earth,  
guided, guarded, and taught his disciples.  
How much more will the Holy Spirit that he has sent within us do the same.  
To guide, guard, and teach us?  
Another Comforter,  
Another Guardian,  
Another Guide  
Another Teacher.

This same spirit that had  
Empowered David.  
Strengthened Samson,  
Taught Solomon,  
And sustained Joseph.  
Will be there for us  
To give us the right word to say  
We may fail, in fact if you're human,

You are going to fail,  
 but the holy Spirit will never fail.  
 Even though we may grieve the Spirit.  
 He will not leave us.  
 Because the Holy Spirit lives in our bodies.

**19 Or didn't you realize that your body is a sacred place, the place of the Holy Spirit? Don't you see that you can't live however you please, squandering what God paid such a high price for? The physical part of you is not some piece of property belonging to the spiritual part of you. 20 God owns the whole works. So let people see God in and through your body. I Corinthians 6:19-20 Message**

Too many times we live in the negatives of life.  
 Like a young man who had everything  
 Intelligence, preparation, real devotion,  
 But he was never chosen for leadership  
 just for the marginal jobs.  
 Why?  
 Because whenever there was a crises,  
 There was a strain of negativism that came out of him,  
 His words, his action, his attitude seem to cancel out  
 Everything else.  
 He always left the group uncertain of him.  
 His negativism negated him.

If the Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit  
 Then so is the mouth.  
 Jesus never met the negative with a negative,  
 Instead he preached the positive love and power of God.  
 Even at the cross he won a positive out of a negative.  
 The Moffat translation says  
**The Diving yes has at last sounded in him. II Corinthians 1:19**  
 So lets step up out of the negative and move into the positive.

Jesus gave us  
 THE PROMISE OF HIS COMFORT  
 THE PROMISE OF HIS PRESENCE  
 THE PROMISE OF HIS WORDS  
 This promise is not just for Christians but for  
 Every child who calls out for God in his or her hour of need.

**During WWII a 10-year-old Jewish boy in Poland** had grown up in the village where Nazi troops came and occupied it, and rounded up all the Jews there for execution. They were first forced to dig their own graves – a long shallow ditch. Then they were lined up along the ditch & machine-gunned. The impact of the bullets knocked their bodies into the ditch & the Nazis shoveled dirt on top of them.

But none of the bullets had hit this little boy. Splattered with the blood of his parents, he fell into the ditch with them, pretending to be dead. The layer of dirt that was shoveled on top of him was so thin he could still breathe.

The Nazis left, & when darkness fell several hours later this 10-year-old boy clawed his way out of the grave. With blood & dirt caked to his little body he made his way back to

his village and to the nearest house & begged for help.

Recognizing him as one of the Jewish boys marked for death by the SS, the woman screamed at him to go away, & slammed the door in his face. He was turned away at the next house and the next, each in their fear of the Nazis overpowering any feelings of compassion they might have had.

Dirty, bloody & shivering the little boy went on. And at the last house, something guided him to say something very strange for a Jewish boy. So when the family opened their door he cried out, “Don’t you recognize me? I’m the Jesus you say you love.”

After a startled pause the woman who stood in the doorway swept him into her arms & kissed him. From that day on that family cared for him as if he were one of their very own. (Adapted from David Yarbrough – SC)

Just as the Holy Spirit filled the mouth of that little boy,  
With words that touched the heart of a Polish woman,  
So Jesus will do the same with your life and mine.

The Holy Spirit is in the business of saving souls.  
And bringing comfort to crushed spirits.  
And he wants to bring his spirit to your lives.  
So until we go to heaven.  
Let heaven come to your soul  
On this Pentecost Sunday bow your head,  
And ask the Holy Spirit to take control.  
And let the Holy Spirit bring comfort and guidance,  
encouragement, and correction.

**<sup>16</sup>And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another (Comforter) Counselor to be with you forever—<sup>17</sup>the Spirit of truth. John 14:16-17**

Gracious God we rejoice in the gift of your Holy Spirit. We ask your forgiveness at our unwillingness to let go and let God lead us. Give us strength to surrender, the courage to open our hearts and the willingness to let you fill us today just as you filled the disciples on the first Pentecost. Hear our prayer and meet the deep need of every heart today. I pray in Jesus name.