

*Introduction: Pg. \_\_\_\_*

We all need help. We all need help in our journey through life and in our journey beyond this life to the next life.

Here's the good news: God wants to be our Help. God offers us Help. And if we'll receive it: God is our Help. Listen to these words from the Bible...

**"...to you the helpless commits himself; you have been the helper of the fatherless." (Psalm 10:14)**

**"God is our refuge and strength, a very present HELP in trouble." (Psalm 46:1)**

**"I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth." (Psalm 121:1-2)**

**So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6)**

My hope for all of us here today is that we can more readily identify our need for HELP and then receive the HELP God wants to give us.

God is the only independent and self-sufficient being in the universe, because he alone is the Creator and Sustainer of all things. We are dependent on him. God expects us to turn to him for help. There is not an area of your life where God fails to extend you help. Decision-making. Relationships. Work. Family. Anxieties. Simply living a life that honors him: God is our Helper.

So here's the point of the message today. It's super complex. I hope you're paying attention...

*FCF:*

**"Who is the Holy Spirit?  
A Little Help, Here?"  
John 16:5-33**

**The Point: Receive help from our Helping God.**

In John 16, Jesus tells us that God distributes his help to us by his Holy Spirit, who is known as our Helper.

How Jesus responds to the grief of the disciples: words of encouragement and comfort, but not empty platitudes...

**Who is the Holy Spirit? Our Helper.**

- **The Holy Spirit is God**, the third person of the Trinity
  - Just as Jesus is God, and God the Father is God, so too, the Spirit possesses divinity equal to theirs as God. There is one God existing eternally in three persons.
  - You will notice that Jesus refers to the Spirit as "he" not "it." The Spirit is a person of the Godhead, not an impersonal force.
  - He does what people do: hear, speak, convince, lead, guide, teach, command, forbid, desire, give speech, give help, intercede for Christians (Packer 54).

- He can be grieved; he can be lied to, and lying to him is the same as lying to God (Eph. 4:30 & Acts 5)
- If we overlook the role of the Spirit in our lives, we are overlooking God. Yikes!

But it still seems shocking to hear what Jesus says in verse 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.* Those must have been jarring words.
- What! They wanted to stay with Jesus. Jesus is the kind of guy you'd never want to not be around. And he says, "It's to [their] advantage."
- I can just hear the thoughts of the disciples from 2,000 years away: Advantage? Jesus, we know you're God and all but we think you just misspoke there. Ummm... Maybe we did not hear you correctly! You missed that important prefix: DIS... If you're heading out, it doesn't matter who you send in your place, that is clearly going to be a big, fat DIS-ADVANTAGE for us.
- Talk about counterintuitive!

How could he say this? 2 thoughts: 1...

### **The Spirit continues Jesus ministry.**

- Jesus already told them in John 14:18: "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you." He does so in the person of God, the Holy Spirit.
- The Greek word for "Helper" is *parakletos* - a compound word in the Greek which means to "call alongside."
- There is no perfect English equivalent. Comforter, Strengtheners, Supporter, Adviser, and Advocate all come close.
- The Spirit is "the empowering presence of God" at work in us and through us.
- Jesus tells them that their relationship will not take a hit but actually be enhanced, because "God is now closer than our fingertips!" He is in you!
- As we journey through these words of Jesus, I'd love for you to consider a question posed by J.D. Greear: "Is your connection to the Holy Spirit so strong and real that you regard his presence in you to be a better advantage than even Jesus himself beside you?" Greear

### **The Spirit expands Jesus ministry.**

- Why? The Holy Spirit would carry on the ministry of Jesus all over the world and usher in a new age.
- Everything Jesus left for his disciples to accomplish would be accomplished by the POWER of the Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Let me give you two pieces of encouragement that flow from vv. 5-15. One is primarily geared toward those new to the news about Jesus, and the other is primarily geared to those not so new to the news about Jesus, though each section has much to say to both groups of people. Got it? Good.

### **I. Receive the Spirit's help to get you into the life of Christ (16:5-11).**

We all know hundreds, if not thousands, of people who would *not* consider themselves to be "all in" with Jesus. In fact, I know some of you here this morning would consider yourself in that camp. That is one thing I love about our church. I've heard so many people say, your church is a safe place where I can continue my spiritual journey.

Jesus says these words with you in mind. He says, the Spirit helps you by bringing conviction. [Conviction happens when we are enlightened to understand where we line up in light of who Jesus is.]

When the Spirit convicts us, when he taps us on the shoulder and says (Hey, that's you!), "ahem ahem hmm" (Clear throat), and then he prompts us to make moves.

- Now, this is not always enjoyable, because none of us really like to hear, hey pal, you've got it wrong on this one, but in reality, that is the very best thing for us.
  - It's okay for the optometrist to tell us we can't see. It's okay for the coach to tell us we need to work on our game. It's okay for the doctor to tell us we're sick.
  - In most areas of our lives we prefer honest assessments rather than living under some kind of delusion. Why would we not welcome the same spiritually?
  - Perhaps the Spirit is saying to you, even now: "Listen, I really care about you, that's why I've gotta let you know... on the inside, deep down, you need some work."
  - We can suppress it or address it.
  - Could we all just say: "I don't have it all together." If I weren't a Christian, I'd be searching for something else, because I know I need something beyond me. I've just found the answer in Jesus, you heard?

T: So the Spirit helps us see where we are and he does this in three areas.

- Bring conviction (in the soul) *"concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;"*
  - The Spirit helps people overcome their greatest error, the greatest "sin," and that is not acknowledging Jesus for who he truly is.
  - Rather than receiving him as the "Bread of Life" to sustain you and satisfy you
  - or him as the "Light of the World" to show you the way in all things,
  - or him as the "Good Shepherd" who provides for us and even died for us.
  - or him as the resurrection, the one who can enable you to conquer death,
  - We say: "No, thank you. I got this."
  - But the job of the Spirit is to say: "You really, really need him in your life." Sometimes it's a small tap on the shoulder, sometimes it's a hammer over our heads.
- **10** concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;
  - Here it is in short: Our efforts of living good lives before God and others are incredibly inadequate. Our standards do not cut it. This should not surprise us, because we don't even meet the standards we set for ourselves.
  - Verses 8-11 show us how we are guilty of failing to meet the standard of God's design.
    - Now, let me just hit pause here, because I hear this all the time: "I don't come to church because I don't want to be put on a guilt trip." (Do more, be better, you're not good enough, you don't measure up.)
    - If that was what this was about, if this is who Jesus was, I wouldn't sign up either. At the same time, seeing our guilt is actually a good thing because... GUILT leads us to GRACE.
    - We can't get to grace until we realize our Guilt. BUT Jesus takes our guilt, and he buries it with his grace.
  - How does this relate to seeing Jesus?
    - Everything good is located in Jesus and flows from Jesus. He is the blueprint.
    - The Spirit communicates the righteousness of Jesus through the truth being heard and being seen from those who follow him.

- Truth in words: “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you”  
Hmm... I want my enemies to suffer)
- Truth in lives: you see people giving their possessions rather than hoarding them in our materialistic culture. Hmm... I wish I could be like that. Why? Because that reflects everything that is right and true.
- **11** concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.
  - The Spirit helps people see, Jesus really rose from the dead and has complete victory over everything, including Satan and all evil in our world.

So... the job of the Spirit is to bring more people in.

- If you are on Jesus’ team, this is your story. If you are not yet on Jesus’ team, perhaps the Spirit is saying to you, even now, take the step.
- If you want to see more people join Jesus’ team, this should free you up to give you confidence to share. The effectiveness of your sharing nor the results are dependent on you.
- The Holy Spirit shows us that God is a missionary God. The Holy Spirit is an evangelistic spirit, so is our church in step with the Spirit. Is sharing Christ at the top of our agenda? Is sharing Christ at the top of your agenda? Could there be anything more important than this? Apathy or Anguish?
  - Evangelism ENCOURAGEMENT - 2020 Vision??
- Connect Card:
  - I want to explore.
  - I’m all in. I commit
  - I want to help others understand who Christ is.

As we move on to verses 12-15, we see that it is necessary to receive the Spirit’s help not only to get us in, but to keep us in the life of Christ.

## II. Receive the Spirit’s help to keep you in the life of Christ (16:12-15).

Verse 13 is crucial: *“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.”*

“He has already been twice described as ‘the Spirit of truth’ (14:17; 15:26), and now Jesus says his job is to guide us “into all truth,” not all there is to know about everything (clearly!) :) But all that we need to know about Christ

- Just as the Holy Spirit enlightens the lives of those yet to fully commit their lives to Christ, so also the Holy Spirit enlightens the lives of those who *are* fully committed to Christ.
- Day after day, the Spirit leads us deeper and deeper into the life of Christ.
- He HELPS us live our lives for God in comprehensive fashion. He provides what is needed when it is needed in any situation.

But **how does the Spirit Guide us?** 2 Answers...

- **Through the Words of Scripture** (that he inspired): **“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”**
- **Through subtle Prompts to Keep those Words.**
- Yesterday, we had the privilege of watching two of our daughters and two the Sanders daughters in their Beyond Movement Dance Academy, “Hollywood Nights” Dance Recital at Medford High

School. Now these little guys were unbelievably cute and they were pretty skilled in the art of dance if I do say so myself.

- Kesed and Piper did their ballet thing to Beauty and the Beast.
- Parker and Riley showed off their tap moves to Greased Lighting. They tried to get your boy to find a leather jacket and be John Travolta but I weaseled my way out of that role by the hair on my chinny chin, chin.
- There was some hip hop, some robotics, but no square dancing, west coast swing or nae nae.
- Now, one of my favorite moments was when the Hakanu Matata team of four year olds came out to bust their moves. They had their little lion outfits on and quickly took there positions, but as they started their dance they all looked over to Miss Joanna Matthews, the founder and lead teacher of Beyond Movement Dance Academy, so that they would remember and keep in step with which move they were supposed to take.
- That’s how the Spirit works with us. He causes us to remember the ways of Jesus and enables us to keep in step with the moves we need to take.
- Jonathan Dodson describes the work of the Spirit in this way: **“I’m discovering that most of the time the power of the Spirit is subtle, not showy. The Spirit is present in our subtle inclinations to serve our spouses, do what’s right, read the Bible, love the marginalized, make disciples, and commune with God.** He is that renewing presence that says: “Choose what is good, right, and true.” He is that tug toward self-sacrifice for the the good of others. He is that challenge to boldly tell someone how Jesus is changing your life. He is the Person that brings Scripture to mind and coaxes you to believe it. He is the one who prompts you to pray for others. He is the one who restrains you from clicking on that image on the Internet, making that purchase, or silently judging someone. He prompts you to encourage a friend, to praise the good in a coworker, or to rejoice in God’s remarkable grace. **If you are in Christ, you have the Spirit, and he prompts you all the time. We simply need to surrender to his prompting!”**
- Is your life characterized by the work of the Spirit? Are we increasingly loving? Increasingly generous? Increasingly willing to serve for the sake of someone else? [2020 Vision]
- As we are led by the Spirit, people will see Jesus in us.
- Verse 15: “He will glorify me.”
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  - The results of living in the step with the Spirit is Victory characterized by Joy & Peace.

### *Conclusion:*

Jesus is so good that he not only shows us how we should live, but he turns our grief to gladness and our problems to peace.

Look at verse 20-22. Grief to Gladness. (Jesus is alive. He brings us undying joy.)

Look at verse 33. Problems to Peace. (Jesus has overcome. We are overcomers through him.)

Today I want to invite you to open your hands to God. Like for real, right now. Take your hands, and as I pray, if you are prompted by the Spirit, would you ask for God’s help?

PRAY.