

# The Holy Spirit is our Helper

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## Introduction

During the last supper, Jesus made a remarkable statement to His disciples. He said, '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 depart, I will send Him to you.' Joh 16:7. The Helper is the Person of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus also identified as 'the Spirit of truth'. In this paper, we will highlight the importance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian.

## The Helper

It is notable that Jesus described the Holy Spirit as the 'Helper'. In every aspect of His work, the Holy Spirit is the Helper of the sons of God as they walk on the pathway of sonship. He *helps* us to lay hold of the hope that has been set before us. Heb 6:18. In the first instance, the Holy Spirit has been given to us as the *expression* of our sonship. By the Holy Spirit, we are able to reveal Christ's life, according to our name, without this being a dead work of our flesh. Let us consider this further.

When we are baptised into Christ, our new creation life dies with Christ and is now hidden with Christ in God. If our new creation life is hidden with Christ in God, it means that it is safe and secure in heaven. When we are baptised with the Holy Spirit, the Father seals us as a son of God in Christ. The apostle Paul explained that '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'. Eph 1:13-14.

A guarantee is a down payment that is given in place of a total amount that is to be fully paid at a later time. It is a pledge, or assurance, of the full payment. Paul was highlighting the point that the Holy Spirit is now given to us as the down payment of our eternal sonship. What a wonderful truth! The Holy Spirit is given to us as a firstfruits of our sonship so that we are able to multiply Christ's life according to our name, and through the works that were prepared by the Father for us to do.

Each day, as we walk on the pathway of sonship by the power of the Holy Spirit, the works of our sonship are not an exercise of our flesh, leading to death. Rather, they are 'of the Spirit', leading to eternal life. Rom 6:22-23. This is an important point. The Holy Spirit is not empowering our flesh to be righteous. He *is* the expression of the righteousness of God within us.

## The capacity for sonship

In the book of Romans, Paul explained that the Holy Spirit pours the love of God into the hearts of the sons of God. 'Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.' Rom 5:5. This is another key aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit.

The love of God is the divine nature and capacity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, given to us 'without measure'. Joh 3:34. As we walk in the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings, the Holy Spirit pours this perfect love into our heart so that it becomes our new motivation in life. The love of God, as a motivation, is giving us everything we need to walk in obedience to God's word. 2Pe 1:3.

We remember that the word of God is proclaimed to us every week at the communion table. This is 'the word of *faith*'. Rom 10:8. If we receive this word, then faith comes with the word. As Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the word of God. Rom 10:17.

We also know that faith works by love. Gal 5:6. The love of God which is poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit is the very capacity that activates the faith we have received, enabling us to obey the word of God. Saying it simply, the love of God is the *capacity* for our sonship. This capacity enables us to stand in full identity and walk forward in the obedience of faith. Rom 5:2.

In the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings, the faith we have received, working by the love of God, is ensuring that the works that we do are according to our sanctification. As we do the works of our sonship, we know the peace of God, because we are being the person whom He named us to be.

### **Guides us into all truth**

Also at the last supper, Jesus taught the disciples that the Holy Spirit would 'guide them into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come'. Joh 16:13. 'All truth' is the word of the Father concerning our sonship in Christ. As Jesus said, 'He who *sent Me is true*; and I speak to the world those things which I *heard from Him*.' Joh 8:26. The Father's word defines the truth of our sonship name and works that He prepared for us in Christ before the creation of the heavens and the earth.

The word of the Father is the word of present truth that is proclaimed by Christ's messengers. This is the incorruptible word of God through which we were born again as a son of God. 1Pe 1:23. As we receive this word, the Holy Spirit rejoices within us, bearing witness with our spirit that we are the son of God whom the word is proclaiming. Rom 8:16.

As we abide in this word, the Holy Spirit helps us to grow in the understanding of our sonship by illuminating this word to us. Paul noted that 'no-one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. 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.' 1Co 2:11-12.

When we have been illuminated regarding the truth of our sonship name and works, the Holy Spirit joins us to the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings, enabling our participation by strengthening us with the capacity of Eternal Spirit. By the Spirit, we are able to fulfil the truth of our sonship name and works that were prepared for us in Christ. We are also being delivered from our propensity to walk according to the principles of the flesh.

## Teaches us how to pray

The word of the Father that we receive at the communion table grants us the faith to join the fellowship of Christ's prayer in the garden of Gethsemane. This is the fellowship of prayer with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit joins us to this fellowship, connecting us to the obedience of Christ so that we are aligned to the will of God as we serve Him as a priest.

In the book of Romans, Paul wrote that we do not know what we should pray for as we ought. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray by making intercession for us 'with groanings which cannot be uttered'. Rom 8:26. This is what it means to pray in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is possible because we have been baptised with the Holy Spirit.

The prayer of the Spirit in us reveals His desire to take what belongs to Christ and to disclose it to us. Joh 16:15. Jas 4:5. The Holy Spirit joins us to the travail of Christ who searches our heart with eyes like a flame of fire, and makes intercession for us according to the will of God. Rom 8:27. As our great High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek, it is Christ who prays to the Father on our behalf, 'Not My will, but Yours, be done.' Luk 22:42.

Significantly, the Father's first response to the prayer of Christ is to begin to pour the love of God into our heart through the Holy Spirit, who is also making intercession for us. When the love of God is poured into our heart, it is a birthing action, by the Father, in the fellowship of Christ's travail. As those who love God, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts, we can be assured that God is working all things together for our good through the course of each day. Rom 8:28

Praying in the Spirit is the means by which we receive our introduction, by faith, into the grace in which we stand every day, so that we are able to fulfil the works of our sonship, and glory in tribulation. Rom 5:1-3. This is a daily reality for the sons of God, and highlights the importance of taking time every day to meet the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer. As we pray in the Spirit, we are enabled to show forth the life and virtues of Jesus Christ as a member of His body.

## The Holy Spirit identifies the works of our sonship

As we noted earlier, Jesus described the Holy Spirit as 'the Spirit of truth' who would lead us into the truth of our name and sanctification as a son of God. Joh 16:13. When the Spirit of truth convicts us of *righteousness*, He is identifying the righteous works of God that belong to our name. These are the works that we are to do as a son-priest who is part of the body of Christ. We fulfil these works by offering and, in so doing, demonstrate the love of God.

The Holy Spirit motivates us towards the works of our obedience. Through the Holy Spirit's guidance, we are able to know what we should be doing each day, and also what we should *not* be doing. Rom 7:18-20. Sometimes, we find that we don't actually want to do the things that we should be doing. However, the Holy Spirit helps us. He pours the love of God into our heart so that the faith that we received by hearing the word at communion is able to work. Gal 5:6. Our faith is exercised as we present ourselves to walk in the way that the Spirit is leading us, and to do the works that have been set before us by the Father. Although the path on which He is leading us may be difficult, and the works that we are called to do are challenging, we can know the peace and rest of God in the midst of our circumstances.

At the same time, the Holy Spirit frustrates the endeavours of our *own* way, which are motivated by the desires of our flesh. To this end, Paul said, 'For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God.' Rom 8:6-7. In these situations, sustained frustration, agitation, anxiety, anger, depression, etc, are obvious indicators that we are endeavouring to live according to our own way. When we are walking this way, the Holy Spirit resists us and urges us to turn and remember the word of the Father, which is proclaiming the life and works that belong to our sonship.

We can be confident each day in our sonship work, because the Holy Spirit is guiding us. In this regard, we do not need anyone to script our life for us. This is what John meant when he said, 'You do not need that anyone teach you.' 1Jn 2:27. Paul made the same point when he noted that we should not desire someone to 'ascend into heaven' on our behalf to define the way that we should walk each day; nor desire someone to 'descend into the abyss' to deliver us from the curse of suffering. Rom 10:6-7.

### Joins us to the fellowship of Yahweh

On the Mount of Olives, Jesus prayed for His disciples, and all those who would believe in Him through their word, 'that they also may be one in Us'. Joh 17:20-21. This is the unique capacity and work of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the fellowship of Yahweh. 2Co 13:14. Because of this, the Holy Spirit is able to take the great multitude of God's sons and join them all to the fellowship of Yahweh. When we receive the Holy Spirit into our heart, we become a temple of the Holy Spirit, and He enables us to be baptised in one Spirit into Christ. 1Co 6:19. 1Co 12:13. This means that we are now one Spirit with the Lord and with the members of the body of Christ, having the same spirit of faith. We note that when Jesus prayed, 'Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be *with Me where I am*, that *they may behold My glory which You have given Me*', He was referring to the work of the Spirit to reveal the glory of being one Spirit in fellowship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Joh 17:24.

The Holy Spirit reveals the name of the Father and the Son to us so that we can have fellowship with Them. He also gives us the capacity to know our name and to recognise and appreciate the name of another. This is *true worship*. Put simply, true worship is the appreciation and worth that we give and receive, in fellowship with the Lord and one another. Jesus taught on the nature of true worship during His discussion with the Samaritan woman concerning where and how God's people should gather to worship the Lord. He said, 'God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in *Spirit* and *truth*.' Joh 4:24.

### These are the sons of God

As we conclude, it is helpful to reflect on Paul's statement to the Roman Christians. 'For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God.' Rom 8:14. It is clear that the Holy Spirit is not just an important aspect of life as a Christian under the New Covenant. The ultimate attainment of our sonship is *entirely reliant on the help and guidance* of the Holy Spirit. Because of this, Paul noted that the New Covenant is the covenant of the Spirit. 2Co 3:6.

The Holy Spirit is our Helper in every aspect of our journey on the pathway of sonship. Every day, we acknowledge that we have died with Christ and our life is hidden with Him

in God. Col 3:3. By the love of God poured into our heart by the Holy Spirit, our motivation is now to reveal Christ and the members of His body, in the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings. As we reveal Christ and the members of His body, by the capacity of Eternal Spirit, the Holy Spirit reveals us. That is, He expresses our identity, life and name. When our identity, life and name are expressed by the Holy Spirit in Christ, we establish and fulfil God's Law. In fact, the Holy Spirit writes God's law of love on our heart and we are the sons of God.