THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR COMFORTER...

Let’s look again at our text in Romans 8:14-17. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in our spirit or sometimes referred to as our heart. The Holy Spirit has full access to the executive center of our lives, where all our decisions are made. Our text says that the Spirit testifies to our spirit. When people or the enemy of our souls declare that we are worthless, the Spirit objects and testifies to the truth that we are children of God. He is our Advocate!

The Holy Spirit constantly whispers to our spirit that we are children of God. We do not have to live in fear of our circumstances. A low sense of worth and a winter season of life can be challenging, but God’s Spirit speaks to us regarding our position as God’s children through Jesus Christ (John 1:12). Paul put trials in perspective when he wrote Romans 8:18.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR COMFORTER REMINDING US THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD...

AND THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.

Romans 8:26-27 says, Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

There are times when we are so overwhelmed that all we can do is put our face in our hands and groan and cry out to God. At that point, the Holy Spirit will intercede for you. He puts our groaning into the form of a prayer that prays God’s will for us. God answers prayer, particularly those that are shaped and formed according to His ultimate will. We often pray our requests. God hears them, but He will enact His perfect will. Even Jesus experienced this the night before His crucifixion (Matthew 26:39).

His will is to conform us into the image of His Son Jesus Christ (Romans 8:28-29). Sometimes the Holy Spirit gives us insight into God’s plan and workings. Other times He just assures us that your confidence can be in God even though you won’t understand right now.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR COMFORTER, REMINDING US THAT WE ARE CHILDREN OF GOD AND THAT EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.
This week, as you reflect on the message, this section is meant to aid you in discus- sions that may be planned or unplanned during your week. Think of friends, co- workers, neighbors, family, etc., that you could meet with to have a time of mutual sharing and fellowship as you open God’s Word together.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

**MAIN TEXT: JOHN 14:25-26 ESV (P. 901); ROMANS 8:1-17 ESV (P. 944)**

Over the past few weeks we have considered how the Holy Spirit works in the life of a Christ follower. Here is a review:

- Leads.
- Convicts.
- Teaches.

The winter seasons of life have affected us all. These are times when life feels cold, dark, dormant, painful, and lonely. Some are there right now. Others have vividly experienced these times and now find themselves in the warmer seasons of their lives.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity, has been sent in Christ’s Name to those who have committed their hearts to following Jesus. Instantaneously, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in the life of a believer and begins His work. He has been given to us 365 days of the year, 24 hours a day, and 7 days a week.

Today’s points are three parts of a sentence that I challenge us to memorize and take with us this week.

**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR COMFORTER…**

These words of Jesus to His disciples coincide with our anchor text. Jesus is talking about the future ministry of the Holy Spirit, which later came on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

- **John 14:16** And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever-
- **John 14:26** 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 that I have said to you.
- **John 15:26** 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.

The ESV translates the original Greek word **paraclete** as Helper. Some translate it as counselor, comforter, advocate and even friend. It is a compound word that means, “One who comes alongside”. Even the word comfort in English has a rich Latin meaning: **com** - in association with; and **fortis** - meaning to strengthen or protect like a fort. It carries the idea of building a fort around one person by another person.

The Holy Spirit comes along side us not to fix our problems, but to be there with us surrounding us like a fortress, holding you like a blanket. That is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Job’s friends did this in **Job 2:11-13**. They sat around their friend like a blanket. Notice that it was when they opened their mouths in **Job 4** that they made a mess of everything. What we do from the outside for friends and family by surrounding them and wrapping them in comfort, the Holy Spirit does form the inside.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION**

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