

The Work of the Holy Spirit

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Background:

- In **John 12** Jesus made His triumphant entry into Jerusalem.
- In the same chapter he predicts his own death.
- In **John 13** He washes His disciples' feet as a part of the final series of teachings to them. This was a lesson of humility.
- In the same chapter he predicted His betrayal.
- In **John 14** He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit:
 - (John 14:15-17 NIV) **“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever — the Spirit of truth. 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.”**
- In **John 15** He teaches them about the vine and the branches. He being our source of life and power.
- **John 16** opens up with a warning:
 - (John 16:1-6 MSG) **“I've told you these things to prepare you for rough times ahead. They are going to throw you out of the meeting places. There will even come a time when anyone who kills you will think he's doing God a favor. They will do these things because they never really understood the Father. I've told you these things so that when the time comes and they start in on you, you'll be well-warned and ready for them. I didn't tell you this earlier because I was with you every day. But now I am on my way to the One who sent me. Not one of you has asked, 'Where are you going?' Instead, the longer I've talked, the sadder you've become.”**

Here we see the Purpose of Jesus and the Holy Spirit:

(v.7 AMP) **However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you].**

The Purpose of Jesus:

- After giving the warning and after explaining all of the turmoil that will come after He leaves, Jesus explains that the good will outweigh the bad.
- There was a purpose for His coming. He came to:
 - Pay the penalty for the original sin
 - Redeem mankind from the fallen state of Adam
 - To allow the Holy Spirit to come back to a place of “indwelling” in the life of believers.
 - There is a lot more we could cover about the purpose of Jesus, but the emphasis of this lesson is the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit:

- **Comforter:**
 - **Definition:** It means “one who administers comfort.” So what is comfort? To provide relief or peace in a time of grief or fear. The capacity to give physical ease.
 - **Application:** Jesus used a contrasted the danger He spoke of in verses 1 – 6 with the comfort they would receive from the Holy Spirit. He was teaching that the Holy Spirit would enable them to find ease and peace, regardless of the circumstances they had to face. The Holy Spirit can give us ease and peace, no matter the challenges, obstacles, or persecution we face.
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to give us an internal peace.

- **Counselor:**
 - **Definition:** It means “one who provides counsel.” So what is counsel? Counsel is the act of exchanging opinions and ideas; providing advice or guidance, especially as solicited from a knowledgeable person; a plan of action.
 - **Application:** Jesus had been their counselor for three years. They went to Him when they did not know what to do, when they needed advice, guidance, and wisdom. He was always the one with the plan. He was the “knowledgeable one” amongst them and Jesus now painted a picture of possessing that same access, but internally. The Holy Spirit can give us guidance and wisdom. He is our “knowledgeable one.” He can provide us with God’s plan for our lives. He can reveal it unto us. John said, **“I’ve written to warn you about those who are trying to deceive you. But they’re no match for what is embedded deeply within you-- Christ’s anointing, no less! You don’t need any of their so-called teaching. Christ’s anointing teaches you the truth on everything you need to know about yourself and him, uncontaminated by a single lie. Live deeply in what you were taught”** (1st Jn 2:26,27 MSG).
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to give us an internal leading and to provide us with a source of revelation and wisdom.

- **Helper:**
 - **Definition:** It means “one that helps.” So what is help? To give assistance to, to aide, to contribute to the furtherance of, to promote.
 - **Application:** To help is more general than the previous characteristics. This means that the Holy Spirit is more an overall assistant. He is literally “one called along side to help.” Helping you in whatever you need help in; that lines up with the Word of God. He will never help you sin.
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to provide general assistance for us in life; helping us become who and what God desires for us to be.

- **Advocate and Intercessor:**
 - **Definition:** Advocate means “one who speaks, pleads, or argues in favor of.” Intercessor means “one who petitions on behalf of another.”
 - **Application:** Paul taught us in Romans that Holy Spirit intercedes for us. He said, “**So too the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance**” (8:26 AMP).
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to plead and make petitions on our behalf.

- **Strengtheners:**
 - **Definition:** It means “one who strengthens.” So what does it mean to strengthen? To make strong or increase in strength.
 - **Application:** We are limited in our own ability. The Holy Spirit enables us to tap into the power of God (Acts 1:8), therefore enabling us to exceed human ability and to operate in the supernatural. The blood of Jesus gives us the access, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability. With the access and the ability, there is nothing that we cannot do.
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to equip, enable, and empower us for the work of the ministry.

- **Standby:**
 - **Definition:** It means “one that can always be relied on, as in an emergency,” one that is already ready.
 - **Application:** We live in an ever changing environment. We, ourselves, are people of change. We are not always ready for the Holy Spirit to operate in our lives, but He is always ready to operate, as soon as we call upon Him. The Holy Spirit is never unaware or unready.
 - **Summary:** Part of the Work of the Holy Spirit is to ever be ready to provide assistance to us, with us, and for us..