

The Helper

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The title of my sermon today is:

The Helper

Jesus Christ mentioned the *Helper* in John 14:16 so I would like to start by turning there. I'll start in verse 15.

John 14:15 *"If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

16) And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— (NKJV)

Christ, just before He left and returned to God the Father, said He would send this *Helper*. So what is the *Helper*? Going on verse 17.

17) the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. (NKJV)

Christ is talking about the Holy Spirit that will actually be in a human being. I'd like to turn to Acts 1. Here's where that was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit was given.

Acts 1:4 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; (NKJV)*

So Christ had promised this *Helper* to come.

5) for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." (NKJV)

This was fulfilled in Acts 2:1.

Acts 2:1 *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*

2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (NKJV)

Here is where this was fulfilled and the Holy Spirit was given—at least a portion of the Holy Spirit. Go to verse 38.

38) Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39) For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” (NKJV)

Here the Spirit is also promised to those who are baptized. There are some amazing analogies in the Bible. I think one of the greatest is the analogy between how God gives the Holy Spirit at baptism that unites with our human spirit, and how the human body is fertilized and then born as a physical body. That’s covered in John 3 where Christ was talking to Nicodemus.

John 3:1 *There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.*

2) This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

3) Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

4) Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

5) Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7) Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

8) The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9) Nicodemus answered and said to Him, “How can these things be?”

10) Jesus answered and said to him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?

11) Most assuredly, I say to you, We speak what We know and testify what We have seen, and you do not receive Our witness.

12) If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how will you believe if I tell you heavenly things? (NKJV)

So, Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that unless one is born again, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. *Born again* was a very foreign concept to Nicodemus because he didn’t understand the physical concepts of conception and birth as a type of receiving God’s Holy Spirit and growing spiritually until we are born as spirit beings. I’d like to turn to 1 Corinthians 15:50.

1 Corinthians 15:50 *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.*

51) *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

52) *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54) *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (NKJV)*

This is our ultimate goal, being born as children of God in God's Kingdom. This doesn't happen at baptism; this is something we have to go through in this physical life and we're still human beings. I'd like to turn to 2 Corinthians 1:21.

2 Corinthians 1:21 *Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,*

22) *who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (NKJV)*

The word *guarantee* in other translations means "a down payment or earnest". I think the word *earnest* is used in some translations. So, the helper is a down payment of the Holy Spirit to help us in our spiritual growth during this physical life with a goal of eventually being born—that analogy—as spirit beings and the sons of God. The analogy of physical conception and birth to spiritual conception and birth requires two spirits. The physical spirit is united with the Spiritual. It requires a combining of the two spirits—the physical spirit and God's Spirit. There's been a long discussion in the church over the years of "spirit" being as a "physical spirit" being part of man's consciousness. I remember years ago in Worldwide, in this discussion,

Is there a spirit in man that is part of our brain that gives us understanding?

The discussion is still going on.

Last December Cambridge University Press published a paper titled, Non-physical Theories of Consciousness and the summary said,

Is consciousness a purely physical phenomenon? Most contemporary philosophers and theorists hold that it is, and take this to be supported by modern science.

Modern science figures that the brain is all there is. There is no spirit in man. So, in general, science ridicules the idea of a spirit in man but God says there is a spirit in man. I'd like to quote three scriptures that mention that. One is Job 32:8.

Job 32:8 *But there is a spirit in man, And the breath of the Almighty gives him understanding. (NKJV)*

We have understanding in our minds because of this spirit God has given us.

Zechariah 12:1 *The burden of the word of the LORD against Israel. Thus says the LORD, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him: (NKJV)*

There's one more in Isaiah.

Isaiah 41:5 *Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: (NKJV)*

So, God gives us spirit. In 1 Corinthians 2:11.

1 Corinthians 2:11 *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

12) 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. (NKJV)

Our human mind allows us to understand physical things—things of this world—and gives us some understanding as far as the things of man. But the Holy Spirit, which is given at baptism, begins a period of gestation and growth analogous to the physical growth inside the womb. God gives each of us *a spirit in man* to help us understand physical things, but Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit to also be a part of our minds to also understand spiritual things. We are all looking forward to being born spiritual beings and eventually becoming the sons of God. We've all pondered a great deal about what it will be like to be a spirit being.

The world is totally confused about God's Holy Spirit. Confused about what it is and what it does. We need to try and understand the Holy Spirit, what it does for us, to meditate on it, what it is, what it does, and what it doesn't do. It's important to learn what we can about the Holy Spirit so we can truly appreciate and cherish this gift that God has given us and sense the importance of it.

Some time ago I gave a sermonette on 1 John 2:27—I'd like to turn there.

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him. (NKJV)*

People use this scripture to tell us that we don't need to join together or be part of a church—we know it all already. We can just be a hermit and study God's word. But the context here, as I mentioned in that sermonette, is warning about false teachers. Back to verse 26.

26) These things I have written to you concerning those who try to deceive you. (NKJV)

John is warning about false teachers and telling us not to pay attention to them. But we do need to assemble ourselves together, that is covered in many places in the Bible. The apostles all taught that to the members who were coming into the church.

Does the Holy Spirit do a memory dump? No, it doesn't. I think it's safe to say that after baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit, we were still babes in Christ. We didn't know it all. We needed to grow in knowledge and understanding. That's why God gives us a span of physical time as a physical being to grow and learn more and more about what we need to be in order to be His sons and be a part of His family. John 13 begins John's account of the last supper that Christ has with the disciples. In verse 30, Judas Iscariot received the piece of bread from Christ and went out and in verse 31 Christ begins a long instructional talk to His disciples about many things. It goes on through chapter 17. I would like to turn to John 14.

John 14:25 *These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. 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 things that I said to you. (NKJV)*

The word *teacher* is from the root word meaning "to learn". Christ is promising the helper which will help us to learn as it works in our minds and opens spiritual things to us. There are many things in the Bible which mention that the apostles didn't understand until they were given the Holy Spirit. They could think back and say, "*Yes this is what Christ did and why He did it.*"

John 12:16 *His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things were written about Him and that they had done these things to Him. (NKJV)*

They had understanding after the Holy Spirit had been given to them, that they didn't have at first. So, what exactly does the Holy Spirit do? I made a list of six things after which, perhaps you could think of more, but I think these are some key things that the Holy Spirit does for us that we need to meditate on and think about.

1. It gives us understanding that we didn't have without the Holy Spirit.

Though the spirit of man gives us certain human abilities—things we can understand and do and things that we don't do as well. My wife says, I don't do math. She does but

it's not her favorite subject. She really likes history. She can tell you all the kings of Britain. I don't do history. The only king of Britain I know is King George VI and that's because I saw the movie. Names and dates come in one side of my head and out the other.

The Holy Spirit gives our minds an ability that it seems God has purposefully left out of our human intellect. It helps us to see the difference between spiritual things and physical things. 1 Corinthians 2:9.

1 Corinthians 2:9 *But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."*

10) *But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.*

11) *For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.*

12) *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.*

13) *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

14) *But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. (NKJV)*

What else does the Spirit do?

2. It gives us wisdom that we wouldn't have otherwise.

This is akin to the first point. Let's look at Isaiah 11:2.

Isaiah 11:2 *The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (NKJV)*

The context here is talking about Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ has the Spirit of God in great measure. These things—wisdom, understanding, the fear of the Lord—are things the Holy Spirit can give. It can give us in smaller measure in this life. In John 14, where I started, it's called the *Spirit of truth*. Romans 1:20.

Romans 1:20 *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse ... (NKJV)*

God really is seen through His creation. It takes the Holy Spirit to see that creation for what it is. That we are a part of this—a part of an amazing design that the mind with only the human spirit takes for granted. You can see the whole world is taking for

granted this creation that we are a part of. We no longer take for granted, this creation. The world speaks of a plant kingdom and animal kingdom, both infinitely complex and perfectly complement each other. This couldn't happen by accident. You can look at the human body and the creation around us, the plants and animals and variety and it just had to be by an awesome design.

On the French-Swiss border there is a giant atom smasher—this is what we used to call them. It's called the Large Hadron Collider. By smashing protons together at near light speed, they produce a great burst of energy and a whole spew of sub-atomic particles. This is often called the largest machine on earth. They want to discover what makes up the human universe—the physical universe. How creation was constructed. They feel now that they have found the ultimate minute particle that is the beginning of all the particles that comes to together to create the universe. They've even nick-named that "The God Particle". We really can't understand creation without a Creator because there is a Creator. This is knowledge that we can't understand through the physical realm.

3. The Holy Spirit gives us a new personality.

Look at 2 Timothy 1:7.

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (NKJV)*

So power, love, and a sound mind. More things that are listed in Galatians.

Galatians 5:19 *Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20) idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21) envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. 22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23) gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (NKJV)*

Love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness—I like to meditate sometimes on what the world would be like if all mankind had these attributes. It would be so completely different from the way the world is. This is the way it is in God's Kingdom. This is what we have to look forward to because God is teaching us these things right now. What we have to look forward to is what we need to strive to obtain right now. In this world we have problems, but we can be *long-suffering* as it says here and have peace of mind knowing that these things in life will come. This world is having birth pains. God likens that in Romans 8:22. I won't turn there but it talks about the *birth pangs* of this world, waiting for God's Kingdom to come.

4. God gives power to overcome and to stand against evil.

Let's look at Ephesians 6. This is a section of scripture that is read many times and been a part of many sermons and sermonettes. I think it's good to look at it.

Ephesians 6:10 *Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*

11) *Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*

12) *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*

13) *Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.*

14) *Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness,*

15) *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;*

16) *above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

17) *And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (NKJV)*

Paul is telling us here—telling the Ephesians and us—to put on this armor and it's available to us through the Holy Spirit.

5. It gives us a relationship with God.

1 Corinthians 3:16 *Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? (NKJV)*

God calls us *the temple* of God's Holy Spirit. Just like Christ referred to Himself as the temple. *Destroy this temple and I'll rebuild it in three days.* He was the ultimate temple of God's Holy Spirit. In a smaller way, we can be a temple of the Holy Spirit that He does give to us. Romans 8:9.

Romans 8:9 *But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.*

10) *And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.*

11) *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (NKJV)*

A couple more scriptures along this line, Ephesians 2:18.

Ephesians 2:18 *For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.*

19) *Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ... (NKJV)*

Along that line, in Romans 8:26.

Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

27) *Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.*

28) *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

29) *For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. (NKJV)*

God gives us a relationship that can end up with us being *the firstborn* in God's family, right after Jesus Christ.

6. One of the most important things is, the Holy Spirit opens a path to eternal life.

Romans 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (NKJV)*

Ephesians 1:14 *I think I read that but it's a downpayment or what is called an earnest of the spirit. (NKJV)*

Acts 2:38 *Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (NKJV)*

I want to emphasize that it is a *gift*. It is an awesome gift that can be a part of us.

1 Corinthians 15:51 *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—*

52) *in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.*

53) *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

54) *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (NKJV)*

God gives us the Holy Spirit but there is a dire warning. That once saved, always saved is taught in many churches in this world, but it is a false doctrine. Look at 2 Peter 2:20.

2 Peter 2:20 *For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

21) For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

22) But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

(NKJV)

The Holy Spirit can be quenched and we have to be very careful about that. There is the proverb that Christ gave about the sowing of the seed where some fell in good places and some fell among thorns and by the wayside. There are things that can lead us astray. Physical things—I think the economy. A lot of us are concerned about the economy. I have been reading reports about a pretty large percentage of people who are living from paycheck to paycheck. I was in the store this week and we used to buy avocados when they were \$.69, now they are 2 for \$5 and a little bottle of pickles was \$3.95. We picked up a couple of dresses for my wife at the cleaners and to get a nice long dress cleaned is between \$25-30. I used to take the trousers that I wore around the house to the cleaners to get dry cleaned until the cost went up by 40% so now, I just throw them in the washer. So, we are all cutting back; it seems like we have to. We're getting by. There are emotional things with what's going on in politics now. It's really hard to believe. There is an election coming up—who knows. We have to think back that God sets up kings and it's His plan that He is working out and somehow, we just have to take these things out of our minds and think about God's Holy Spirit and what it's done for us. Even the physical things like food and what to put on, God says He will take care of things. The Lord's prayer—we pray for our daily needs to be taken care of and He takes care of things.

We're considered in the low-income category, but our expenses are low and we get by. I'm sure we can just trust God to keep doing that. So, God does provide. To recap a little bit:

- The Spirit of God allows men to learn things of the physical world.
- The Holy Spirit allows men to understand things of God.
- The Holy Spirit opens our minds to God's plan and leads us on a journey toward being a part of God's family.
- God gives us the helper as a down payment of His Spirit that leads us on this journey.

The six points that I gave were:

- 1. God gives us an understanding that we wouldn't have without His Holy Spirit.** Looking back, at my age, I can look back (God has given me quite a long life) and I can see what God has taught me. I think He's given me understanding that I wouldn't have had otherwise without His Spirit to look back and see what I've learned and the mistakes I've made.
- 2. God gives us wisdom that we wouldn't have otherwise.** I made a lot of unwise decisions that I can now look back and see what I should not have done—and going by God's word—what I should have done.
- 3. God gives us a new personality**—one of power, love, and a sound mind.
- 4. God gives us power to overcome and stand against evil.** It requires faith—we have to put our faith in God and put the physical things, emotional things that might be leading us astray, out of our mind and just have faith in God.
- 5. The Holy Spirit gives us a relationship with God.** It is a starting point. It combines with our spirit to give us that relationship. We can pray to the Father which we couldn't do before Jesus Christ was taken back to the Father. One of the most important things, it opens a path to eternal life. We're on that path. God gives us a measure of His Holy Spirit to get us started and to teach us and we just need to keep going.
- 6. The Holy Spirit opens a path to eternal life**
God's spirit is what opens our mind to God's plan. It leads us to eternal life. So what could be more precious than this gift that God has given us—a part of His very nature and a promise of sonship in His family at some point.

We need to meditate on the Holy Spirit and think about what it does for us and what it has done for us, being truly thankful and allowing it to make changes in our lives and carry us on towards His Kingdom.