The Spirit as Helper

John 14:16-17, 25-27; John 15:26-27; John 16:5-15

- We are diving into Jesus' final words to his disciples before his arrest
  - Our focus will be on a massive shift: the transition from Jesus' physical presence to the coming of the Holy Spirit.
  - This study is anchored primarily across three consecutive chapters in the Gospel of John (chapters 14, 15, and 16), which serve as Jesus' ultimate source of comfort and preparation for his followers.

John 14:16-17 NASB

16 I will ask the Father, and He will give you another
Helper, so that He may be with you forever; 17 the
Helper is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot
receive, because it does not see Him or know Him; but
you know Him because He remains with you and will be
in you.

John 14:25-27 NASB

25 “These things I have spoken to you while remaining
with you. 26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the
Father will send in My name, He will teach you all
things, and remind you of all that I said to you. 27 Peace
I leave you, My peace I give you; not as the world gives,
do I give to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled, nor
fearful.

John 15:26-27 NASB

26 “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you
from the Father, namely, the Spirit of truth who
comes from the Father, He will testify about
Me, **27** and you are testifying as well, because you
have been with Me from the beginning.

John 16:5-11 NASB

5 “But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and
none of you asks Me, ‘Where are You going?’ 6 But
because I have said these things to you, grief has
filled your heart. 7 But I tell you the truth: it is to
your advantage that I am leaving; for if I do not
leave, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I
will send Him to you. 8 And He, when He comes, will
convict the world regarding sin, and righteousness,
and judgment: 9 regarding sin, because they do not
believe in Me; 10 and regarding righteousness,
because I am going to the Father and you no longer
are going to see Me; 11 and regarding judgment,
because the ruler of this world has been judged.

John 16:12-15 NASB

12 “I have many more things to say to you, but you
cannot bear them at the present time. 13 But when
He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into
all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but
whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will
disclose to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify
Me, for He will take from Mine and will disclose it to
you. 15 All things that the Father has are Mine; this is
why I said that He takes from Mine and will disclose
it to you.

Consider the "why"…

- Before Jesus' arrest, he explains to his closest followers that it is better for them that he's going away.
  - I'm sure the disciples were asking why.
  - He says that when he leaves, he'll send the Holy Spirit to them.
  - The Spirit will be "another Helper" (Greek: *parakletos*, John 14:16), like Jesus (ref.: 1 John 2:1).
  - But unlike Jesus, who was with them only for a season, this helper will live *in* them and will be with them continuously, *forever*.

Consider the "who"…

- As Jesus prepares his followers for his death, resurrection, and ascension to the Father, he refers three times to the "Spirit of truth" (John 14:17, 15:26, 16:13).
  - He does this to emphasize the Spirit's role in helping people see the truth about God, his will, ourselves, and this world.
  - So the Spirit is not only the life-giver, but also the truth-teller.

Consider the "what"…

- Jesus' willingness to be crucified without fighting back might suggest his weakness by greater ruling powers.
  - But the Spirit unveils a deeper truth.
  - Jesus' death and resurrection actually show the world an exponentially greater power—God's love and forgiveness, which defeat "the ruler of this world" (16:11).

Consider the “reason”…

- The Spirit will also remind Jesus’ followers of his words, teaching them everything they need to know and preparing them for what’s coming.
  - Through the Spirit, they will live in unity, despite their different backgrounds and ways of life, “so that the world may know” Jesus through them (17:22-23; ref Eph. 4:3).

Reflect…

In what ways does the Holy Spirit help us today as Jesus' followers?

More Relevant Scripture References

- Mark 13:9-11
- Luke 11:9-13
- Romans 8:26-27