

YOU HAVE A HELPER

(John 14:15-31)

OPEN: It's the last night Jesus is with His men, the meeting is about to adjourn...no time to waste.

- If you are going to accomplish God's will, know this:
 - a) God's work is accomplished through prayer (John 14:13-14).
 - b) God's work is accomplished through obedience (John 14:15, 21, 23, 24).
 - c) God's work is accomplished through the help of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-20, 26).

John 14:15-26

1) LOVE'S **FEST**. (PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)

- The key to effective praying is to ask for that which glorifies God...(reveals God to a lost world).
 - ✓ What better way to reveal the Father than to obey the Son.
 - ✓ Obedience is the true test of love.
 - ✓ When we love someone, we want to please them, we honor them by doing what they have asked of us.
 - Illustration: This is true in the husband/wife relationship. Love is action not just talk...we demonstrate our love by the kind things we do for one another.
- Love motivates us to obey...it's not that we have to do it, but we want to do it.
 - ✓ **2 Corinthians 5:14 (NKJV) - The love of Christ compels us.** Other translations: controls, constrains, guides...

- ✓ Christianity is not a list of rules (a creed to follow), it is a matter of loving the kindest, most gracious, generous, powerful, loving person in the world.
- ✓ **1 John 4:19 (NKJV) – We love Him because He first loved us.**
- ✓ How do we know He loves us? **John 15:13 (NLT) – There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friend.**
- Obedience is how we express our love.
 - ✓ **Vs. 15 – if you love me, obey me.**
 - ✓ Why do I go to church? Jesus loves the church (**Ephesians 5:25**) and He tells me to go faithfully (**Hebrews 10:25**).
 - ✓ Why do I give a percentage of the income God blesses me with? Because He tells me to (**1 Corinthians 16:2, 2 Corinthians 9:6-7**) and it’s how I show gratitude and invest in eternity.
 - ✓ Why read and study my Bible? Because Jesus says I should study it (**2 Timothy 2:15**) and it will help me stay on the right path (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**).
 - ✓ These and other commands are to be obeyed...not so we get into Heaven, but because we love Christ.
 - Luther said: we are not saved by faith and works, but by a faith that works.
 - The half-brother of Jesus agreed: James said: **Faith without works is dead (James 2:17).**
- The one who loves and obeys the Son will be blessed by the Father.
 - ✓ **Vs. 21 – those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. And because they love me, my Father will love them. And I will love them and reveal myself to each of them.**
 - ✓ If you want to reach the heart of a parent, love their child...loving Jesus makes the Father smile.

- ✓ To love is to obey, when we obey we get to know Jesus in a better way.
- ❖ But let's be honest, we may have the best intentions, but we often fall short...Jesus' own disciples did.
 - ✓ Pete made a promise he couldn't keep.
 - ✓ Our weaknesses and sinful nature distract and discourage us...we need help from Heaven.

2) HEAVEN'S HELPER. *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Good news, Jesus may be leaving, but someone is coming to assist you.
 - a) May I introduce you to the Holy Spirit.
 - ✓ The Holy Spirit isn't a power (may the force be with you). He is a person...third person of the Godhead.
 - ✓ When we think of Him as a mysterious power, our thoughts might be; how can I get more of Him.
 - ✓ We have misinterpreted the passage **Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)** - ...be filled with the Holy Spirit.
 - We think in terms of filling our tanks with half, three quarters of the Holy Spirit.
 - We wonder, how can I get more of Him?
 - The world "filled" means dominated or controlled.
 - The Holy Spirit doesn't come in quarts, ½ gallon, gallon...when you trust Christ as your Savior you get all the Holy Spirit.
 - The question is not how much of the Holy Spirit do you have, but how much of you have you surrendered to the Holy Spirit?
- You ask: how do we know He is a person?

- 1) He can be sinned against.
 - **Ephesians 4:30 (NLT)** – And do not bring sorrow to God’s Holy Spirit by the way you live...
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:19 (NLT)** – Do not stifle (quench, put out the Spirit’s fire, be unresponsive, suppress) **the Holy Spirit**.
 - If the Holy Spirit was an impersonal force then He couldn’t be hurt or disappointed.

- 2) He selects and distributes spiritual gifts.
 - **1 Corinthians 12:4 (NLT)** – There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.
 - He empowers those He enables.

- 3) Divine attributes are ascribed to Him.
 - He is called omniscient (all-knowing) in 1 Corinthians 2.
 - Omnipotent (all powerful) in Luke 1.
 - Omnipresent (all present) in Psalm 139.
 - The same attributes used to describe the Father and the Son are used of Him.
 - Example: **Acts 5:3-4**...Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?...you have not lied to men but to God.

- 4) He intercedes on our behalf.

Romans 8:26-27a (NLT) - ²⁶ And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷ And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.

- When we are not sure what to say or think, our thoughts are jumbled, our feelings overwhelm us...the Holy Spirit takes over and reveals to the Father our needs.

- The Holy Spirit is not an “it” but is referred to as He, Him.

b) The Holy Spirit is our constant companion.

John 14:16 – I will ask the Father and He will give you another Advocate (helper, comforter, friend) who will never leave you.

- Word Comforter comes from two Latin words: cum and fortis = confortis. Cum means “with” and fortis means “to fortify, to strengthen.”
 - ✓ He comes alongside us to strengthen us.
- ❖ He helps us obey the Lord’s commands and accomplish the work God gave us to do.
 - Take note of the change that is about to occur:
Vs. 17...He lives with you now and later will be in you.
 - ✓ Child of God, you may sometimes feel lonely but He won’t leave you orphaned.
 - ✓ The God of the O.T. that resided in the holy of holies now lives in the child of God.
 - ✓ Wherever you go, He goes; whatever you watch, He watches; whatever you say, He hears it.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20 (NLT) - ¹⁸ Run from sexual sin! No other sin so clearly affects the body as this one does. For sexual immorality is a sin against your own body. ¹⁹ Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself,²⁰ for God bought you with a high price. So, you must honor God with your body.

- The Spirit of God helped these men with the inspiration of the word...
 - ✓ **Vs. 26** – the Holy Spirit will teach you and remind you of everything I have told you.
 - ✓ When John writes His gospel 50 years have passed and the Holy Spirit brought to is memory all He wanted written.

✓ He helps us with illumination today (understanding).

❖ The chapter closes with:

3) JESUS' **GIFT** (JOHN 14:27-31). *(PRO PRESENTER SLIDE BULLETIN OUTLINE)*

- Jesus offers them peace.
 - ✓ Someone said: "Peace isn't the absence of trouble but the presence of God."

- ✓ Jesus was about to make it possible to have peace with God.

Colossians 1:20 (NLT) - ...He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ's blood on the cross.

- By trusting Christ as our Savior, we can have this peace.

Romans 5:1 (NLT) - Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us.

- Do you have this peace? Are you certain you have a home in heaven?

- Some rough days were ahead for these men...they weren't to live according to their feelings but put their trust in the Savior.

Illustration: A true but tragic story of WWII. The "Lady-be-Good" was a bomber whose crew was a well-seasoned flight team, a group of intelligent combat ready airmen. After a successful bombing mission, they were returning to home base late one night. In front of the pilot and co-pilot was a panel of instruments and radar equipment they had to rely on to reach their final destination. They had made the flight many times before, so they knew about how long it took to return.

But this flight was different. Unaware of a strong tailwind that pushed the bomber more rapidly through the night air than usual; the men in the cockpit looked in amazement at their instruments as they correctly signaled it was time to land.

The crew, however, refused to believe these accurate dials and gauges. Confident that they were still miles away from home, they kept flying and hoping, looking intently for those familiar lights below. The fuel supply was finally depleted and the

big bomber never made it back. It was found deep in the desert many miles further and many days later. Its crew had all perished, having overshoot the field by a great distance. It happened because they trusted their own feelings and ignored their instruments.

- Put your trust in Christ and His word, everything is going to work out fine...you will see.

CLOSE:

- Love's test is obedience.
? Are you living an obedient life that glorifies God?
- Heaven's helper is the Holy Spirit.
? Are you giving Him the controls of your life?
- Jesus' gift is peace.
? Are you at peace with God? He's got this!

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