



Unit 3: God's Power and Me

Sermon Series Title: When the Spirit Moves

Sermon 2: Believers are Better

Bible Passage: John 14:15-18, 25-26

Background/Context

In chapter 14 of John, Jesus is comforting His disciples and explaining to them that He has to leave them (vv. 1-4). Thomas is confused and Jesus explains further His plan (vv. 5-7). Jesus teaches an exclusive gospel, not universalism, which is the hope that everyone will someday be in heaven. Jesus taught that He is the only way to the Father, to eternal life. Jesus answers Philip's question about showing them the Father (vv. 8-21). In this section, Jesus explained to Philip that another Counselor, the Holy Spirit, will be with the disciples forever (v. 16). Judas (not the one who betrayed Jesus) asked Jesus about His method of revealing Himself (vv. 22-31). Jesus informs Judas and the other disciples that loving Him means obeying Him. If a believer does not obey Jesus, it shows a lack of love. Believers cannot say they love yet disobey. Obedience and love go together in the life of a child of God.

Today, people strive to be better versions of themselves. They engage in physical activities, read self-help books, or hire life-coaches in order to make themselves better. It seems that many believers have forgotten that the Father and the Son have already sent each of us a life-coach. It is His responsibility to encourage, remind, and teach us. And it is His charge to make us better.

A. The Spirit Comforts
(John 14:15-16, 18)

Jesus told His disciples that God the Father would send them a comforter. Notable pastor and author Warren Wiersbe said, "We usually think of 'comfort' as soothing someone, consoling him or her; and to some extent this is true. But true comfort strengthens us to face life bravely and keep on going. It does not rob us of responsibility or make it easy for us to give up. Some translations call the Holy Spirit "the Encourager," and this is a good choice of words. The Greek, *Parakletos* is translated "Advocate" in 1 John 2:1. An advocate is one who represents us in a courtroom and stands at our side to plead our case" (*The Bible Exposition Commentary*, Vol. 1).

When we consider the Holy Spirit as comforter, encourager, or advocate, two truths emerge. The first truth is His presence or closeness to believers. Although Jesus was with the disciples in bodily form, the body is limited. And while Jesus voluntarily limited Himself, the Comforter is without limitations. He comes to live or take up residence within every believer. He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). The second truth is His pity or condolences. The Holy Spirit is available to console, soothe, and strengthen believers in the midst of personal trouble, heartache, or pain.

Application Point: How does the Spirit help you confront fear? How does He help you through difficult circumstances? Allow the Comforter to use you to carry out His ministry of encouraging and strengthening others.

B. The Spirit Reminds (John 14:25-26a)

As believers, the Bible instructs us to remember a number of things. Moses told the Israelites to “remember the days of old; consider the years of past generations” (Deut. 32:7). The Psalmist implied that believers must remember the works of the Lord and what He’s already done (Ps. 77:11). Paul told the Ephesian elders to “remember the words of the Lord Jesus, because he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35). Jesus told His disciple to drink the cup and eat the bread in remembrance of Him (1 Cor. 11:25-26). Peter said, “...so that you recall the words previously spoken by the holy prophets and the commandment of our Lord and Savior...” (2 Pet. 3:2). Even during times of blessing, we should remember the Lord and His teachings (Ps. 63:5–6). The Holy Spirit has the power to teach us all things and remind us of everything said to us by the Lord.

Application Point: How can you remind yourself to listen to the Holy Spirit’s guidance and direction in your life, now and in the days to come? What do you need to remember the next time you feel discouraged? As believers mature, we also learn to rely more on the spiritual weapons of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives.

C. The Spirit Teaches (John 14:17, 26b)

Jesus told the disciples they would have someone to comfort them, to remind them of past instructions, and to teach them further. The Spirit teaching is not something new. The Levites said, “You sent your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst” (Neh. 9:20). What does the Spirit teach? He teaches the things that glorify and honor Christ (John 16:14), and He reveals the things God has for His people (1 Cor. 2:10). The Spirit directs believers in the way of godliness (Isa. 30:21). He instructs ministers what to preach (1 Cor. 2:13; Luke 12:12). How does He teach? He primarily uses the Word of God because He is the “Spirit of truth.” He also uses His people and sometimes life events and circumstances. When studying the Word of God, we must be aware of the Spirit’s presence and His power to help us understand God’s truth better. And when we do, we become better equipped to share God’s Word.

Application Point: How are we taught by the Spirit on a daily bases? Who can you encourage to listen to the guidance of the Spirit? When we share what we’ve been taught by the Spirit, we help build up others.