

GODHEAD COURSE

Lesson 19

Whose Spirit do we receive

Previously it was established that the spirit of a person is the person himself, the Spirit of Jesus is himself and likewise the Spirit of the Father is himself. Also, it was established that the term Holy Spirit refers to both the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of His Son.

This conclusion creates further questions: Who is the Comforter and the spirit Jesus promised to give us? Whose spirit do we receive? What did the disciples believe and teach regarding the comforter and promised spirit.

Who is the comforter according to John?

In His discourse with the disciples, Jesus promised to send the spirit of truth, whom He called, the comforter.

The term comforter, which comes from the Greek word Parakletos, is used five times in the New Testament, all of which are by the apostle John. Comparison of these five verses provides a deep insight into who John believed the promised spirit is.

Four of the five verses are spoken by Jesus in John chapter 14 to 16.

In these verses Jesus promised to send another comforter (John 14:16) who proceeds from the Father (15:26), He also said that unless He, Jesus, goes away the comforter will not come (John 16:7). He also said the comforter is the Holy spirit. (John 14:26)

However, note that in this discourse, Jesus was speaking to the disciples in proverbs, or figures of speech. When the disciples wondered at what He was saying (John 16:18), He spoke plainly to them and said:

“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.” John 16:25

Although Jesus was speaking in figures of speech, there are few direct hints in his discourse that suggests the identity of this comforter. Consider:

Jesus

- “The world seeth me no more” Vs 19
- “but ye see me” Vs 19
- Jesus was with them at that time
- “I in you” Vs 20
- “I will come to you” Vs 18
- “I am with you always” Matt 28:19
- I will shew you plainly from the Father (John 16:25)

Comforter

- The world “seeth him not” Vs 17
- “but ye know him” Vs 17
- “he dwelleth with you” Vs 17
- “shall be in you” Vs 17
- “give you another comforter” Vs 16
- “he may abide with you forever” 16
- The spirit “will shew you things to come” John 16:13

It is rather obvious that Jesus was speaking about Himself in the third person while teaching the disciples in figures of speech.

However, this becomes even clearer when we read the fourth instances in which John uses the term “parakletos”. Notice

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate (**G3875**) with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1 John 2:1*

John, the one who wrote Jesus’ discourse in John chapters 14-16 and the only disciple who used the term “parakletos”, plainly identified who is the comforter. He said *“we have a paraklētos, (meaning an advocate or comforter), with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous”*

Not only is it clear from Jesus’ discourse that the comforter, the spirit of truth, that was to come is the Spirit, the life and the person of Jesus Himself, but John goes further and states it very clearly leaving no doubt in the mind of the reader. He says, Jesus is our parakletos, meaning, advocate and comforter.

Who did Paul teach the Promised Spirit is?

Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians said:

“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.”
1 Cor 8:6

He clearly stated that there is only one Lord, Jesus Christ. Notice what Paul writes to the same church in his second letter:

“Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”
2 Cor 3:17

After telling them that the one Lord is Jesus Christ, He tells them that the Lord, or Jesus, is that spirit.

Is Paul saying that Jesus became a spirit? Yes, that is exactly what He is saying.

“Thus it is written, The first man Adam became a living being; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” 1 Cor 15:45

Paul not only says Jesus is that Spirit, but he also says Jesus was made a life-giving spirit.

And to the Galatians he wrote:

“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, ... that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Gal 3:13, 14

Who is this promised spirit? He gives us the answer in the next chapter

“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Gal 4:6

The promised Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus. Paul was not unsure or ambiguous about the identity of the Promised Spirit sent on Pentecost. He clearly identified it as the very life, presence and person of Jesus Christ.

That is why he repeatedly says in almost all his letters that Christ is in the believer.

According to Paul, when the believer receives the promised Spirit, they receive Jesus Christ Himself. (Rom 8:10; 2 Cor 4:10, 11; 2 Cor 13:5; Gal 4:6; Eph 3:17; Col 1:26, 27)

Who is the promised spirit according to Peter?

Consider what Peter said in his sermon at Pentecost.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:” Acts 3:19, 20

Peter is the same person that spoke both of these verses. Note the similarity between the two.

1. Repent - repent
2. be baptized - be converted,
3. for the remission of sins - that your sins may be blotted out
4. Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost - And he (God) shall send Jesus Christ.

According to Peter, receiving the Promised spirit is equivalent to receiving Christ.

These two simple yet profound verses give us insight into Peter’s beliefs regarding the identity of the promised Spirit.

It is not a third person or being other than Jesus Christ called God the holy spirit. Not at all. Receiving the promised spirit is receiving the spirit, the life and the presence of Jesus Christ.

According to John, Paul and Peter, the comforter or promised spirit is the spirit of God’s dear Son. The spirit of Jesus Christ, which according to what has been established previously, is Jesus Christ Himself.

This naturally raises the questions, “isn’t the Promised spirit and comforter, the spirit of the Father as well? Why did the apostles say it is Jesus Christ? Whose spirit do we receive, the Father’s or the Son’s?”

To correctly answer this question, two things need to be established:

1. Firstly, all things proceed from the father. He is the source of all things (1 Cor 8:6; Rom 11:36) including the life of His Son Jesus Christ (John 4:26).

This foundational truth, which was established earlier causes one to believe that after Pentecost, the Holy spirit comes from the Father.

Consider what Jesus said:

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:” John 15:26

If all things, including the promised Spirit, comes from the Father, then why does the bible clearly say in many places that the Spirit after Pentecost is Jesus Christ?

2. Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6; 10:9)

He is the Mediator, the High priest, and the Comforter (1 John 2:1).

Yes, the Father wants to dwell in man. Salvation is humans being reconciled and united with God the Father. Human bodies are the temple of God the Father. (1 Cor 3:16; 1 Cor 6:19)

But keep in mind, the only way God could be in man, is through His Son Jesus Christ:

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself **BY JESUS CHRIST**, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;” 2 Cor 5:18

“To wit, that **GOD WAS IN CHRIST**, reconciling the world unto himself,” 2 Cor 5:19

God dwelt amongst man, and reconciled man to Himself through His Son Jesus Christ. He revealed Himself through His Son (John 1:18; 12:45; 14:9)

And the only way for God to dwell in man, is through His Son as well.

“For **through him** [Jesus that is] we both [Jews and Gentiles] have access by one Spirit unto the Father.” Eph 2:18

Our destination is to access the Father. The purpose of the plan of salvation is to unite us with the Father, to make us a living temple for the Father to dwell in. But do not miss the crucial point of the text.

The only way to access the Father, the only way to get to the Father and for the Father to dwell in us is through His Son Jesus Christ.

This avenue or way to the Father was consecrated or opened for us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. (Heb 10:19, 20; 1 Peter 3:18)

The only way God the Father could dwell in man is through Jesus Christ, not someone else. (Eph 2:18)

That is why Jesus said when we receive the Comforter, or Himself, we will have both, the Father and the Son. Consider:

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23

“we”, that is both, the Father and Jesus will dwell in the believer.

Why would Jesus say that, and how could it be? Because God was in Christ. That was demonstrated at the baptism of Jesus when the spirit of God descended on Jesus. Paul also tells that “God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself.” (2 cor 5:19).

Through His indwelling Spirit, Jesus reunites us individually to His Father because the Father is in Him.

Jesus is the link between God and man.

That is why the foundation of the gospel, the good news of the Gospel, the hope of our glory is Christ in you (col 1:27). why?

Because the indwelling of Christ brings the indwelling of God the Father.

Whose spirit is the Holy Spirit sent at Pentecost?

It is the spirit or life of Christ in whom the Father dwells.

Or to put in a different way. it is the spirit of the Father coming to us through His Son Jesus Christ

That is why John says:

“If we reject the Son, we reject the Father.” 1 John 2:23

But if we continue to follow the teachings about Christ we have “*both the Father and the Son*” (2 John 1:9; 1 john 1:3; 2:24; John 14:23)

The only way to be reunited with God, is to have Christ within, not someone else called God the Holy spirit.

We cannot get to the Father in any other way, other than through Jesus Christ.

That is why the holy spirit sent at Pentecost had to be Jesus Christ, not someone else.

But always remember, God was in Christ. He, the Father, comes to us in His Son. So, when you receive Jesus, you receive the Father also.

With this in mind, notice the different terminology Paul uses to refer to the same spirit:

*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not **the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.” Rom 8:9*

*“And if **Christ** be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.” Rom 8:10*

*“But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus** from the dead dwell in you, **he that raised up Christ** from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by **his Spirit** that dwelleth in you.” Rom 8:11*

Referring to the same spirit, Paul wrote:

- Spirit of God
- Spirit of Christ
- Christ
- Spirit of him that raised up Jesus

It is rather obvious that in Paul’s understanding, the promised spirit is the spirit of God and the spirit of Christ. Not only that, but he referred to the same spirit as “Christ.” This is in perfect harmony with what we just discovered.

When we receive Jesus, we receive both, the Father and the Son.