

Our Helper John 14:15-17

Introduction (14:15)

(14:15) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Loving Christ is not an emotion but keeping commands.

In this case (14:12), to love Christ is to carry on His work.

Romans 12:1 True worship is not a feeling, but a sacrifice of self.

1. The Perfection of the Holy Spirit (14:16a)

(14:16) “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.”

Another could take one of two forms here: *heteros/allos*.

The Spirit is an *allos* (another of the same kind as Christ).

If Christ is divine, then so is the Holy Spirit.

He is Eternal (**Heb 9:14; Genesis 1:2**)

He is Omnipresent (**Psalm 139:7-8**)

He is Omniscient (**1 Corinthians 2:10-11**)

He is Omnipotent (**Luke 1:35**)

He is declared to be God (**Acts 5:3-4**)

2. The Practice of the Holy Spirit (14:16-17a)

“Helper” (*parakletos*): from *kaleo* (to call) and *para* (alongside).

As we obey Christ to carry out His work, the Spirit is alongside.

The Holy Spirit does 27 different things in the life of a believer:

Convicts us of sin (**John 16:8-11**)

Regenerates us (**Titus 3:5**)

Adopts us (**Romans 8:15**)

Intercedes for us (**Romans 8:26-27**)

Illumines us (**1 Corinthians 2:12**)

No Spirit = No understanding (**1 Cor 2:14; Jn 14:16**)

Equips us with spiritual gifts (**1 Corinthians 12:11**)

Leads us (**Acts 20:22-23**)

Dwell with us forever (**Jn 14:16b**)

Illus: Disney's Pinocchio

We are also not yet what we should be and need help (**1 Jn 3:2**)

3. The Personhood of the Holy Spirit (14:17b)

“He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.” **Note:** Jesus calls the Spirit of God, “He.”

Note: Anytime *pneuma* (spirit/wind) is used in koine Greek, it is always associated with a neuter pronoun. Jesus uses masculine.

The Holy Spirit is a being, not a force.

Historical note: This was disputed after the Nicene Creed (AD 325), affirming the deity of the Spirit (*Pneumatomachian Controversy*).

Those rejecting the personhood of the Spirit today: Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarians, Oneness Pentecostals, and Christian Science.

The Spirit is a person, not a force:

He has volition (**1 Corinthians 12:11**)

He is rational and speaks (**Romans 8:27; Acts 13:2**)

He intercedes (**Rom 8:26**), teaches (**Jn 14:26**) and fellowships (**2 Cor 13:14**).

He can be grieved (**Ephesians 4:30**)

4. The Presence of the Holy Spirit (14:17c)

“You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

With you (presently) in you (future). Jesus indicates a coming change in the believer's relationship with the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit's work in the OT is typically described externally, with a change to internal work in the new covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-33**).

The Spirit would anoint an individual to empower them for work:

Gideon (**Judges 6:34**)

Samson (**Judges 14:6**)

Saul (**1 Samuel 10:10**)

The Spirit's presence/power could be removed (**1 Sam 16:13-14**).

The removal of this anointing was often due to sin (**Psalm 51:11**)

Spirit still regenerated people in the OT (**Rom. 8:9**).

This is a unique empowering of believers for ministry due to the indwelling presence of the Spirit (**Jn 16:7, Acts 1:5**).

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of salvation (**Eph 1:13-14**).

Guarantee = downpayment. We are assured of a future salvation because of the indwelling Spirit today.

Philippians 1:6 He who began a good work in us will complete it.

Congregational affirmation of the Nicene Creed (AD 325).