

Children's Moment

April 12, 2015

Title: God the Holy Spirit

Object: Smart Phone

Scripture: “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:26)

Westminster Shorter Catechism for Children

15 Question – Who wrote the Bible?

Answer. Holy men who were taught by the God the Holy Spirit wrote the Bible.

I love to listen to music. When I go for a walk, I like to take along my iPhone so I can enjoy listening to music as I walk. Listening to music when I am working in the yard helps me enjoy my work.

Some of you may have a portable radio, CD player, or iPod. If you do, then you know that before it can make music, it must have batteries in it. The batteries give the player the power that it needs to be able to play. Without batteries, the player can do nothing. Without batteries, it is dead and has no power to do what it was created to do.

Before Jesus returned to heaven to be with his Father, He told His disciples that they would do even greater things than He had done when He was on earth. Now Jesus did some pretty great things, didn't he? He healed the sick. He turned water into wine. He made the blind to see and the lame to walk. Where were the disciples going to get the power to do such great things? Jesus promised them that He would ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit would give them

the power to do great and mighty things and the Holy Spirit would give spiritual wisdom.

It happened just as Jesus said it would. On the day which is called Pentecost, the disciples were all together. The Bible tells us that there was a sound from heaven like a mighty rushing wind and it filled the room where the disciples were gathered. Then, there were flames of fire that appeared and rested upon each of them. When these things happened, the disciples were filled with power and began to preach and teach about Jesus. They were able to do things that they had never done before because of the power of the Holy Spirit in them.

Did you know that you and I have that very same power available to us today? The Bible says, "All who are led by the Spirit are children of God." As the children of God we have the power to do great and mighty things, not in our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit that is within us.

Dear Father, we pray that we will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit just as the disciples were on the day of Pentecost. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

John 14:25-26

Holy Spirit: Helper – Teacher – Prompter

For three years Jesus had been the source of comfort and truth to the disciples. He was their teacher and the reminder of God's plan and purpose. Jesus had told them "... **the word (teachings) that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.**" (John 14:24) What Jesus had taught for three years was from God the Father and not His own. The disciples may not have understood everything Jesus was teaching but they knew God in heaven had sent Jesus. This had given them vision, hope and comfort. Now they are being told that Jesus will soon leave and this brings distress. As Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure He had told them that the Comforter, the Helper, "**the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him**" (John 14:16) would be given to them. *Jesus affirmed to His disciples that, "You know him (Holy Spirit), for he dwells with you and will (soon) be in you."* (John 14:17) The Holy Spirit also makes clear through Paul that "**in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God**" and even though the world is "**always learning it will never be able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.**" (2 Timothy 3:7) The world is spiritually dead and a dead people are capable of doing nothing – because they are dead; therefore the spiritually dead world will not know God. It is only when God has regenerated a person's soul and they are saved that they "**come to the knowledge of the truth.**" (1 Timothy 2:4) We are able to see that prior to Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost the disciples found it difficult to understand the teachings of Jesus because they had not yet been given the Holy Spirit. "**When therefore he (Jesus) was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.**" (John 2:22) This remembrance and understanding came

after the resurrection.

Prayer

In our passage this morning Jesus explains to His disciples, “These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” (John 14:25-26) In these two verses we see three aspects of God’s Spirit as Helper/Counselor, Teacher and Prompter. John’s gospel has already put forth the Holy Spirit as the Helper/Counselor earlier and in chapter 16 John focuses on the Spirit’s holiness, but here the emphasis is on the ministry of the Spirit as Teacher. We will look at each of these.

Holy Spirit – Helper

Remember when we studied verse 16, Jesus says, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper...” (John 14:16) Let me ask you who is the first Counselor or Helper sent by God for the salvation of mankind? Jesus! Now Jesus says God is sending another Helper. We already learned the Helper is not similar to Jesus. We saw that this other Helper is not different than Jesus. We know this for the Greek teaches us that there are two different words that we translate as “another.”

One is ἕτερος “*heteros*” meaning “another” that is **different** from the first. In Luke 20 the owner of the vineyard sent a slave to collect the rent and they abused him. Then owner then sent “**another slave; and they beat him also and treated him shamefully and sent him away empty-handed.**” (Luke 20:11) These two slaves and the others that were sent by the owner were completely different people. They were **not** the same.

Jesus uses the second Greek word here in verse 16. The word is ἄλλος “*allos*” meaning “another” **just like the first**. So the Helper sent by the Father is another divine being just like the first, Jesus. The Holy Spirit is all-knowing, all-powerful and all-present just like the Father and Son. By the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit into the souls of the saved we will experience peace even in times of trouble. We will be comforted in times of worry. This is because we will be given the spiritual wisdom of God, by God who lives in us.

Holy Spirit – Teacher

As one looks back at the three years of Jesus’ teaching His disciples, one can see they struggled with understanding because they did not have the Holy Spirit. What Jesus had taught them was, at times, like getting a drink of water from a fire hose. They were overwhelmed. Now Jesus is telling them you need further teaching and along with the teaching you need understanding. I am leaving, but I am sending you the Holy Spirit and He will not only teach you He will also give you understanding. The role of the Holy Spirit is the same for us today. Much of the meaning and purpose of the scriptures would go over our heads if the Holy Spirit did not give us spiritual understanding and wisdom.

Another observation that can be taken from verses 26 is the Trinity. Let me read it again, “**But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.**” (John 14:26) First the Helper or Holy Spirit followed by God the Father who is the sender and all this is done in the name of God the Son, Jesus.

These verses are primarily to the disciples, but they apply to us as well and in a way more for us than even the disciples. The Holy Spirit would teach the disciples after

Jesus' resurrection and today He continues to teach us as well. In addition the Holy Spirit gave the disciples the words of the scriptures. These are the very words of God the Holy Spirit whose purpose is to reveal Jesus. Unsaved people are unable to understand the spiritual truth found within the Bible. Without the Holy Spirit indwelling us and imparting spiritual wisdom the truth of the scriptures remains hidden. As Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *"For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."* (1 Corinthians 1:18) My beloved does this help you understand why the world is consumed with worldly pursuits and the Bible makes no sense to them. The Apostle Paul said it better than I ever could, please turn in your Bibles to 1 Corinthians chapter 2 beginning in verse 6, *"Yet we do speak wisdom among those who are mature; a wisdom, however, not of this age nor of the rulers of this age, who are passing away; (many of the brightest scientists and political leaders have no spiritual wisdom even though they possess intellect. They do not understand for they are of the old age because they do not have God – continuing in verse 7) but we speak God's wisdom in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God predestined before the ages to our glory (God predestined that with Christ's resurrection and the gift to believers of the Holy Spirit we would live in the end-times the reality of God's wisdom hidden from the world of unbelievers); now in verse 8, the wisdom which none of the rulers of this age has understood; for if they had understood it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory; 9 but just as it is written, Paul quotes from Isaiah (64:4) 'THINGS WHICH EYE HAS NOT SEEN AND EAR HAS NOT HEARD, AND which HAVE NOT ENTERED THE HEART OF MAN, ALL THAT GOD HAS PREPARED FOR THOSE WHO LOVE HIM.'* (Do you understand that before the creation of the universe God had predestined you as His child? When you would live in history and prepared you for the purpose of bringing Him glory and serving Him in the living of your life? Are you being obedient? Is your life bringing God glory?) now on to verse 10 For

to us God revealed *them* (things listed in verse 9) through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (It is the illumination of the Holy Spirit that gives your soul and mind the revealed spiritual wisdom of God) 11 For who among men knows the *thoughts* of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? (When man relies upon his own intellect, on his fallen spirit then man is left to his own fallen intellectual path in life and he knows not God) Even so the *thoughts* of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. (The Spirit of God sees into God heart and know all for He is God. In verses 12 and 13 we see the wonderful gift of God for believers.) 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God, 13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual *thoughts* with spiritual *words*.” So, my beloved we are to take the spiritual wisdom and thoughts given by the Holy Spirit and speak spiritual words for the purpose of - “All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) My beloved, are we up to this assignment, this living the scriptures? Simply put, no we are not, not without the Holy Spirit who teaches us today just as He did the disciples long ago. When we rely on the Holy Spirit we are able to live the lives God has called us to – living to bring Him glory and sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with the world.

Holy Spirit – Prompter

Let me read verse 26 of John 14 again, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” The first part of this verse speaks of the

teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit, but there is a second part that speaks of remembrance. The question to be asked is, “Why, if the disciples were taught all things by Jesus, does anything need to be brought back into their minds?” As we reflect on this verse and human nature we see that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is prompting and helping us remember. Why? Because of what people are like, our inability to retain important teachings. It is possible, is it not, to be well taught and still forget? I saw a segment on TV with Jay Leno going out on the street asking people what 911 was. A number of people could not remember. Several of those who did not remember were graduate students at prestigious universities. People’s memories are short. In the disciples case Jesus had taught them but they did not understand the meaning of what they were taught and it was the ministry of the Holy Spirit to bring this to remembrance. In addition, we saw after Jesus’ resurrection, because of their fear they forgot who their faith and the teachings were based upon. Today we have the same problem; Christians and ministries that lose their focus on Christ have forgotten the basis of true faith and have taken their focus off of Christ. They have put their focus on a number of things; good works most often. When Joyce and I were working in Pakistan one of the ministries and a hospital run by a large denomination had moved to the position of good works was the primary goal of ministry. I asked the bishop what good is it if we fix a person’s physical problem – surgically remove something that has gone bad in the body or do cataract surgery returning physical sight if that person then goes on to spend eternity in hell? They had taken their focus off of Christ. After a time of intense discussion between the bishop and I, permission was given to have Bibles and tracks available and we hired a man I called Lazarus who spoke 8 tribal languages. He walked throughout the hospital praying over and sharing Christ with Muslims. The wisdom of God is not new and it has not changed – my brothers and sisters, are you keeping your “eye on the ball” are you focused on Christ

instead of all that is going on around you in this fallen world? Through study of God's Word and prayer the Holy Spirit will give you focus by bringing to remembrance to your mind and soul the teachings given by God focused on Christ.

We have a huge problem in the US, actually a problem that has plagued Christianity and the Church since the beginning and that is humans have a tendency to help God out by inventing new theologies. Ministries and leaders are looking for way to set themselves apart from everyone else and make themselves special. All one has to do is study history to see the many schisms, fades and detours churches have taken. People say I going to this church because they are teaching something new, something I have not heard before, the Holy Spirit is giving them a special revelation. The truth is these revelations are not from the Holy Spirit because the Holy Spirit only teaches what has been given by God the Father and God the Son, which is always consistent with the Word of God you are holding in your hands. At Canyon Bible Church the Holy Spirit brings the old truths of the Bible to our remembrance and we preach and study the old doctrine given by God and delivered to the saints once and for all.

The second thing is the truth of God's Word reminds us and teaches us over and over because we tend to forget and if we forget we lose our focus on Christ and begin traveling down of road that is not of God. When we study the history of the church we see the blessing of the Holy Spirit which brings reformation and revival and this is followed by gradual forgetting of the true message given by God and the church splinters and becomes ineffective. This cycle is repeated over and over. We see it in families with strong spiritual leadership and faith, then the next generation becomes less adherent to the Word of God and the next generation becomes lukewarm and the next cold. My job is to remind you, my beloved brothers and sisters of the old truths. Your job is to remind each other of the truth of scripture and to edify and hold each

other accountable to the standard of the Scripture. Our job as Canyon Bible Church is to remind the world of the truth of God's Word, even though this truth is often rejected.

Holy Spirit and Christ

Reading verse 46, "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and we do not want to miss. The object of the Holy Spirit's teaching is Christ. There is a danger, even for evangelical believers of making the Scriptures and e d bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." also says something else and of themselves. We are tempted to study the Bible like a textbook. Memorizing the data it contains. If we do this we can lose focus of the purpose of the scriptures – to reveal Christ to us and those seeking truth.

Power of God

The final point I want to make is that it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to teach the truth of the Scripture to others. Teaching spiritual truths cannot be done through the power of the flesh. There are three things necessary to teach God's truth. First, there must be the revelation of the truth to the apostles by the Holy Spirit. This has been done and has given us the scriptures. Second, there must be the teaching of the Holy Spirit to our hearts, so that, as we read the words of the apostles we come face-to-face with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Jesus was the focus of their writing and ministry and purpose for living. This is to be our focus also. Third, there must be about the continuing work of the Holy Spirit to bring remembrance and understanding and change within us so that our testimony of God's written and living Word will impact the hearts of those who have not yet heard or understood the gospel.

There are those who study the Bible academically but do not let the Holy Spirit bring

remembrance, understanding and spiritual wisdom. There are those who hold the scriptures in high esteem and doctrine, but they testify in their own power to bring themselves glory. Neither they nor God receives glory.

You and I, my beloved we do the work of spiritual farmers. First, God prepares us, cultivating the soil of our mind and soul by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and His Word. Then by His Spirit, power and wisdom we are prepared to plant the seed of the gospel in others. We water it and by God's grace both we grow spiritually and we see the growth in others. The seed has life in it and it is the life given by God. We can work hard tending the soil and planting, but if the seed does not have the life of God it will not grow. We are to be obedient in the planting, but it is God who gives life. If the seed has life then our work begins. God asks us to invest time and to nourish the planted seed of faith and salvation He has given. The "Son" of God shines upon the seedling bringing life. We are called to be faithful in nourishing the seed given by God; watering, feeding and pulling weeds. Everything we need for the task is found in the power of God the Holy Spirit's ministry of being our Helper, our Teacher and our Prompter. We live for the glory of God who is our Lord, our Savior and our Master. It is all about Christ - go and live faithfully for His glory.

Amen!