

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 25: The Holy Spirit is the Helper

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the fifth of ten lessons about the Holy Spirit. The Bible teaches that there is only one true God and He exists in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Trinity are equally divine, possess divine attributes, and accomplish divine works. In this lesson we will examine the biblical teaching that the Holy Spirit is the Helper. He helps Christians in the conviction of sin, salvation in Christ, and prayer.

MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

When Christ returned to heaven after His ministry on earth was done, He did not leave His disciples alone. He sent the Holy Spirit to help in His place. Although the Holy Spirit doesn't have a physical body like Jesus, the Spirit dwells in Christians and helps them throughout their lives. Each time Christians proclaim the gospel, the Holy Spirit convinces unbelievers about the truth, the glory of Jesus, and their need of salvation. The Holy Spirit helps Christians see Christ clearly in the Scriptures and conforms their lives to Christ. In His final hours before the crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that He was going away to His Father. Jesus promised that it was better for Him to depart than stay because when He returned to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to help believers. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the helper (KJV "comforter") who comes alongside believers to lift them up and help them. He convicts the world of sin, grants repentance, and helps believers in their prayers.

John 16:7-15; Romans 8:26-27

1. The Spirit helps convict the world (John 16:7-11)

A. The Spirit's work for unbelievers

Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would convict the world of sin (John 16:8). The word "convict" means to convince someone of sin or wrongdoing so that they are ashamed of their sin. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin because they do not believe in Christ (John 16:9). While Jesus was on the earth, He was a light shining in darkness (John 3:18-19). When someone does not believe in Christ, they show that they love sin more than God. After Jesus ascended back to heaven, He sent the Holy Spirit to do the work of conviction, exposing the sin of unbelievers. The Spirit does this so that sinners will realize their need for forgiveness and repent of their sins.

The Holy Spirit also convicts the world of righteousness (John 16:10). The so-called "righteous" deeds that man offers to God fall woefully short of God's standard of perfect righteousness.

The Bible says that all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment (Isa. 64:6), and Romans 3:10 says, “None is righteous, no, not one.” The Holy Spirit continues to show sinners that even the best of what they can offer is sin-stained and corrupted.

The Holy Spirit also convicts the world of judgment (John 16:11). The Holy Spirit convinces sinners to repent and trust in Christ or else they will face certain judgment. Satan has already been condemned, and those who turn from their sin and trust in Christ alone will escape condemnation (Rom. 8:1).

B. The Spirit’s work for believers

The Holy Spirit not only helps to convict sinners of their sin, He also enables them to respond with repentance and faith. Before a person is a believer, he is spiritually dead (unresponsive) in his trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1) and in desperate need of the Spirit’s help. The Holy Spirit gives new life and a new heart to an unbeliever. It is the wonderful gift of repentance (2 Tim. 2:25). Godly repentance is a turning away from sin, leading to the knowledge of the truth and salvation (2 Cor. 7:10). What a gift and great help from the Spirit.

2. The Spirit helps believers in life (Romans 8:26-27)

The Spirit’s help does not end with the believer’s conversion and justification. He continues His work by sanctifying believers and making them more like Christ. He also helps them with prayer, spiritual gifts, and understanding and applying biblical truth. Without the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to give a sinner a new heart that loves God, no one can pray in a manner that pleases Him. On the other hand, when a sinner is born again by the power of the Holy Spirit (Tit. 3:5), his prayers are offered to God in the Spirit (Eph. 2:18; 6:18), and God hears his prayers. The Spirit also helps believers pray when they don’t know what to say (Rom. 8:26-27). When believers can’t find the right words to express their deepest hurts and needs, the Holy Spirit takes their prayers and offers them to the Father, praying for them according to the will of God. The Spirit helps believers in many other ways, some of which we will examine in the lessons to come. For example, the Spirit equips believers with spiritual gifts, gives them understanding in God’s Word, and helps by sanctifying them and making them more like Christ. In short, the Holy Spirit’s help is transformative. He convicts the world of sin, changes dead hearts into new, living hearts, grants repentance and faith, and produces holiness. He comes alongside believers and enables them to walk worthy of their calling. As Christ promised, He does not leave His people alone, but He sent a personal and kind Helper to assist in their weakness.

MEMORY VERSES

John 14:26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*

John 15:7 *If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following is a basic summary of the Holy Spirit's ministries from *Biblical Doctrine*, edited by John MacArthur and Richard Mayhue, 340. This list demonstrates what Christ meant when He told the disciples that it was expedient (advantageous) for the Son to depart so that He could send the Holy Spirit (John 16:7).

1. He adopts (Rom. 8:15)
2. He baptizes (1 Cor. 12:13)
3. He bears witness (Acts 5:32; Rom. 9:1; 1 Jn. 5:6-8)
4. He calls to ministry (Acts 13:2-4)
5. He convicts (Jn. 16:8-11)
6. He empowers (Ex. 31:1-3; Judg. 13:25; Acts 1:8)
7. He fills (Lk. 4:1; Acts 2:4; Eph. 5:18)
8. He guarantees (2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5; Eph. 1:13-14)
9. He guards (2 Tim. 1:14)
10. He helps (Jn. 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7; 2 Tim. 1:14)
11. He illuminates (1 Cor. 2:10-13)
12. He indwells (Rom. 8:9-11; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19)
13. He intercedes (Rom. 8:26-27; Eph. 6:18; Jude 20)
14. He leads (Ps. 143:10; Mt. 4:1; Mk. 1:12; Acts 20:22-23; Rom. 8:14)
15. He produces fruit (Gal. 5:22-23)
16. He provides spiritual character (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25)
17. He regenerates (Jn. 3:5-6; Tit. 3:5)
18. He reminds (Jn. 14:26)
19. He restrains sin (Gen. 6:3; Acts 7:51; 2 Thess. 2:6-7)
20. He resurrects (Rom. 1:4; 8:11)
21. He reveals truth (Neh. 9:30; Zech. 7:12; Jn. 14:17; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 3:5)
22. He sanctifies (Rom. 15:16; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Thess. 2:13; 1 Pet. 1:2)
23. He seals (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30)
24. He selects overseers/pastors (Acts 20:28)
25. He sends (Acts 13:4)
26. He strengthens (Eph. 3:16)
27. He teaches (Jn. 14:26; Acts 15:28; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27)