

Series: John

Title: The Comforter Giving Boldness

Text: John 15: 26-16: 15

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**John 15: 26: 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: 27: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.***

The Lord Jesus comforts his people. He said in John 15: 11, *“These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.”* The gospel is good news of great joy. The gospel is the gospel of comfort. He commands his preachers:

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her [speak to her heart], that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.

God has a people. His elect are his people. He says, *“Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people, saith your God.”* God sends his messengers to speak to the hearts of his people, *“Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem”*, cry to their heart.

What is the comfort God commands his preacher to comfort his people with? *“Cry unto her [speak to her heart], that her warfare is accomplished.”* Comfort my people by crying to her that Christ has won the warfare. He has won her Victory for her. *“Her warfare is ACCOMPLISHED!”* Remember in the mount of transfiguration, the law and the prophets bear witness to the *“decease Christ should ACCOMPLISH at Jerusalem”* on the cross. He accomplished the warfare of his people.

God commands his messengers to comfort his people by declaring to her *“that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.”* Christ satisfied God. God says of his people, *“her iniquity is pardoned; she has received of the LORD’S hand double for all her sins.”* He put away our sins and made us righteous. He restored us double—for all our sins—double restitution for all our sins. Christ restored that he took not away. He restored us double because that is what the law required. Therefore, we have a standing with God better than Adam. Christ has made us eternally righteous in him by his eternal redemption. Each one God has given faith to rest in Christ are accepted of God in Christ our Righteousness!

So the night our Lord was betrayed, he was fulfilling Isaiah 40. He is God’s servant. Christ is God’s Prophet, Priest and King. He is comforting his apostles. Christ had been their Comforter since he called his apostles. But now he is departing. So he is telling them what shall come because they are his friends. He promises that when he departed, he shall send ANOTHER COMFORTER, the Holy Spirit, to comfort them. He promised, *“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you”* (Jn 14: 18). He comes to us even now and comforts us through the Holy Spirit.

How does the Holy Spirit comfort his people?

**John 15: 26: 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.***

This title of the Holy Spirit means Advocate. He is one with the Father and Son—the third person in the Godhead. He is the advocate for Christ in the hearts of his people. Christ sent the Spirit from the Father. He is the Spirit of truth who reveals Christ the Truth in the hearts of his people. He bears witness of Christ, *“He shall testify of me.”*

This is how the Spirit of God comforts his people. He testifies in our hearts of Christ. This is how he assists his people. This is how he strengthens his people. This is how he keeps us believing on Christ, persevering in faith. This is how he helpeth our infirmities for we know not what to pray as we ought. This is how he keeps his witnesses preaching Christ alone. Look down to;

**John 16: 12: I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. 13: Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. 14: He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. 15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.**

Some in religion speak more of the Holy Spirit than they do of Christ. But Christ said when the Spirit comes into the hearts of his people, he shall testify of Christ. Christ said, "Whatsoever he shall hear that shall he speak." Christ said, "He shall glorify me." Christ said, "He shall receive of mine and shew it unto you." The Father and Son are one therefore our Lord said, "All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you." God the Father will have Christ his Son glorified. So the Spirit shall glorify Christ

What will be the result? Look back up to:

**John 15: 27: And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.**

This would be great comfort to the apostles. Christ is declaring that the Holy Spirit shall bear witness of Christ in their own hearts and therefore they also shall bear witness of Christ to others. They had been with Christ from the beginning. They were eye witnesses of Christ and all his works.

Acts 1: 8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Why is Christ declaring that he is sending the Spirit?

## **NEEDED DUE TO PERSECUTION**

**John 16: 1: These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended.**

That night, the apostles had no idea how greatly they would be hated and persecuted for believing and preaching Christ. This shows Christ love, how he comforts his people. Had he not told them these things they might be surprised and become offended. But he tells them beforehand. Christ has told us all things we can expect in this world and from this world.

John 16:33: These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

So Christ tells his apostles and us what to expect. They would be hated for believing and preaching salvation by Christ alone.

**John 16: 2: They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. 3: And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me. 4: But these things have I told you, that when the time shall come, ye may remember that I told you of them. And these things I said not unto you at the beginning, because I was with you.**

To be put out of the synagogue was far more than just being kicked out of a local assembly. You lost all rights. You were blacklisted in the community so that you could not do business. And all of the apostles but John were eventually killed for preaching Christ. The religious world did this thinking they were doing God service. When Paul was Saul of Tarsus he did the same. Listen to Paul.

Acts 26: 9: I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth. 10: Which thing I also did in Jerusalem: and many of the saints did I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I gave my voice against *them*. 11: And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled *them* to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted *them* even unto strange cities.

Those that crucified the Prince of Life did so in zeal for the law of God. They cried,  
John 19:7: The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.

The Pharisee's sent men to break Christ's legs so he would die so they could get him down so they would not break the sabbath day. Think of the paradox of that! Scripture was written that not a bone of his would be broken—typifying not a member of his body would be lost. So when they came he already yielded up his Spirit. But they killed the Prince of life in a zeal to keep the law of God!

Romans 10: 1: Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. 2: For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. 3: For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. 4: For Christ *is* the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

How did Christ fulfill the righteousness of the law? What is newness of spirit? Look to Christ? What is the spirit of the law? Look to Christ on the cross. He fulfilled both tables of the law perfectly on the cross by faith and love.

By faith, he believed God. He trusted God to fulfill his promise to him when he had declared God just and Justifier. He believed God even when left in the darkness.

Isaiah 50: 6: I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. 7: For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed. 8: *He is* near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who *is* mine adversary? let him come near to me.

When the Spirit gives us faith, newness of spirit, we believe on Christ. Faith believes Christ my Justifier. "Who shall anything to the charge of God's elect! It is God that justifieth, it is Christ that died yea is risen again who maketh intercession." So we believe Christ to bless the word we preach in the hearts of others by the Spirit. We trust one another to Christ, intercede for one another and wait on the Lord to work in the heart. We believe him and trust him to deliver us out of every affliction.

In love, Christ fulfilled the law. Christ loved God and his people in the perfection the law requires. How so? His people hated him; we were guilty of sin; we could not save ourselves out of it. Knowing our sin against him, he willingly was made sin for us. He bore our burden, our offenses, our iniquities, our trespasses. He took all the sin of his people on himself. He willingly gave himself to bear the curse and condemnation. He gave himself to bear the curse that God poured out so his people would be justified and go free. He did so unto death.

That is his perfect faith and perfect love. That is the righteousness of the law. He fulfilled the law in perfect righteous faith and love. He did it by covering our sin. By putting away our sin. By covering us in his righteousness. By restoring us to God.

That is world's apart from the Pharisee's looking for sin and constraining men and condemning and casting them out in the name of obeying the law. Listen to the Lord declare it through Isaiah,

Isaiah 58: 1: Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins. 2: Yet they seek me daily, and delight to know my ways, as a nation that did righteousness, and forsook not the ordinance of their God: they ask of me the ordinances of justice; they take delight in approaching to God. 3: Wherefore have we fasted, *say they*, and thou seest not? *wherefore* have we afflicted our soul, and thou takest no knowledge? Behold, in the day of your fast ye find pleasure, and exact all your labours. 4: Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as *ye do this* day, to make your voice to be heard on high. 5: Is it such a fast that I have chosen? a day for a man to afflict his soul? *is it* to bow down his head as a bulrush, and to spread sackcloth and ashes *under him*? wilt thou call this a fast, and an acceptable day to the LORD? 6: *Is* not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye

break every yoke? 7 *Is it* not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh? 8 ¶ Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy rereward. 9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I *am*. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity; 10 And *if* thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness *be* as the noonday: 11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. 12 And *they that shall be* of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in

That is what the Lord worked in his apostles so that they believed Christ and loved one another and preached Christ. When he sends one of his servants in newness of spirit his servant believes Christ and loves us. His servant trusts Christ to work in the heart by the preaching of the gospel and by the Spirit—the rod of his strength. And the Spirit makes his children hear the gospel of Christ crucified. He lifts our head to behold Christ on the cross. And with that LOOK he breaks our hard heart in repentance and faith because we see Christ did that for me, the sinner.

### NEEDED TO REVEAL CHRIST IN OTHERS

Not only would the Spirit bear witness in their own hearts so they could continue believing and preaching the gospel, the Spirit would also do so in the hearts of his elect throughout the world.

**John 16: 7: Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. 8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 Of sin, because they believe not on me; 10 Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; 11 Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.**

By the Spirit testifying of Christ in their own hearts, giving them power, they went right back to Jerusalem. They stood before the religious host who had crucified their Redeemer and preached Christ to them.

Think of Peter. He denied the Lord three times before a damsel that night. But by the Spirit of God that same Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost and preached Christ boldly. After Peter was used to heal the lame man at the gate called Beautiful, listen to Peter.

Acts 3: 12: And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk? 13: The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go. 14: But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; 15: And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses. 16: And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. 17: And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did *it*, as *did* also your rulers. 18: But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. 19: 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;

Christ made good on his promise—he saved multitudes and he is still doing so.

**Amen!**