Life in the Spirit 2018

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The Comforter

*“I Will Not Leave You Comfortless”*

*John 14:18*

***2 Corinthians 3:5, 6*** *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter kills, but the Spirit Gives Life.*

***The New Covenant Promise:***

***Ezekiel 36:26, 27*** *I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statues ...*

*I will give you a new heart and put My Spirit in you! God’s Holy Spirit living on the inside when we believe in Jesus as our Savior. We become a whole new creature in Christ. We now become alive in God! We now become alive by His Spirit! We now have Life in the Spirit!*

***2 Corinthians 3:5, 6*** *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think anything as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who also has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.*

*The Holy Spirit Works Within us:*

*“The work and ministry of the Holy Spirit” in a believer’s life is given in detail in the gospel of John chapters 14,15 and 16. These are important chapters to review and study from time to time to be reminded of the major role the Holy Spirit plays in your life.*

1. He is the “Life Giver” … He births Spiritual Life in Us. **John 3:3**
2. He is the Person of the Godhead Who “Remains with us Forever” ... **John 14:16**
3. He “lives in us” … Close fellowship with us … **John 14:17**
4. The Spirit of Truth … He Teaches all things … **John 14:26**
5. The Spirit of Truth … Who Brings to Remembrance “The truth” of God’s Word … **John 14:26**
6. He convictsthe world of sin, God’s righteousness, and the coming judgment … **John 16:8**
7. He Guides Believers into all the Truth (the whole and full Truth) … J**ohn 16:13**
8. He Reveals to us things to come in the future … **John 16:13**
9. He honors and glorifies Jesus by taking the things that are Jesus’ and reveals (declares, discloses and transmits) it to us! **… John 16:14,15**
10. The Spirit of Truth … He testifies of Jesus (gives us evidence and proof of Christ Jesus in our life) … J**ohn 16:26**
11. He is our Comforter (parakletos: one who is called alongside especially to one’s aid) (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby) … **John 14:26**
12. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; intercedes or prays on our behalf according to God’s will … **Romans 8:26,27**
13. He is a Spiritual Gift Give**r …** All these gifts are brought to pass by one and the same Holy Spirit who apportions to each person as He chooses. **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**
14. He is a Fruit Producer in our life … The fruit of the Spirit is Love…. **Galatians 5: 22,23**
15. The Holy Spirit Seals the Believer **…** The sealing of the believer brings out the thought of ownership. You personally belong to God and you are His child. **Ephesians 1:13,14**

***John 16: 7 However****, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go away, I will send Him to you (to be in close fellowship with you).*

*Apparently, Jesus considered it more important for His disciples that the Holy Spirit be given to them, than He in His bodily presence be with them! Jesus was geographically limited by His incarnation. But the Comforter would dwell in each believer and have a worldwide ministry through them.*

***The Promise of the Holy Spirit****:*

***John 14:15-18*** *If you really love Me you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you “Another Comforter” that He may remain with you forever. …I will not leave you as orphans… comfortless, desolate, bereaved… I will come back to you.*

*The promised Comforter was given in a permanent sense. He abides in you and remains with you forever. As Jesus departed this earth the Holy Spirit will never depart from the believer’s life.*

*Christ did not actually leave the early disciples. He departed as the suffering Christ, only to come again in the person of the Holy Spirit.*

***John 14:16, 17****… Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the 1.Comforter (Gr. word Parakletos) and as the 2.Spirit of Truth, whom the world is not able to receive.*

***Comforter:*** *The Gr. word is “Parakletos" of God’s people: One called alongside to give help - paráklētos (from*[3844](http://biblehub.com/greek/3844.htm)*/pará, "from close-beside" and* [2564](http://biblehub.com/greek/2564.htm)*/kaléō, "make a call") – One called to one’s aid … as in a court room of law.*

***Comforter:*** *Our understanding of the word “comforter” is not adequate to describe the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life. We think of a comforter as one who simply consoles or sympathizes with us in time of sorrow.*

*The Holy Spirit not only consoles us in our sorrow, but rather He gives strength, encouragement and victory over ou*r sorrows in life!

***Comforter of God’s People:*** *This word “Parakletos” in Greek has so many positive meanings it is difficult to describe in one word.*

*The Amplified Bible does a great job explaining the Greek word “Parakletos” as 1. Comforter 2.Counselor 3.Helper 4.Advocate 5.Intercessor 6.Strengthener, and 7.Standby.*

***John 14:16*** *And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengthener, Standby), to be with you forever. He remains with you continually and will be in you.*

 *He is present to support you in your time of need; to strengthen you; to help you; encourage you; speak to you and for you on your behalf to God; and to counsel you.*

***To Comfort:*** *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*

*All these beautiful definitions of the word comfort describe the wonderful work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life. What an amazing Helper!*

1. (*v. t.*) To make strong; to invigorate; to fortify; to corroborate (support).

2. (*v. t.*) To assist or help; to aid.

3. (*v. t.*) To impart strength and hope to; to encourage; to relieve; to console; to cheer.

4. (*n.*) Assistance; relief; support.

5. (*n.*) Encouragement; solace; consolation in trouble; also, that which affords consolation

***Practical Ways God Comforts Us Through the Holy Spirit:***

1. He Comforts us by the presence and encouraging words of other believers that He sends into our lives. **2 Corinthians 7:5-6 …** He will send the right people to us; maybe receive a phone call, a visit, a letter, a friendship, etc. Paul was comforted by the coming of Titus and the good news he brought about the Church in Corinth. At this time Paul was in Macedonia and experiencing great unrest, affliction and even fear.
2. He Comforts us by the Words of the Holy Scriptures. **Romans 15:4** For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. The Bible is filled with words of comfort, encouragement and hope. The Gospel is the Good News not bad news of Jesus.
3. He Comforts us by speaking truth to our heart as we pray and wait upon the Lord. He reveals truth, teaches, reminds, instructs, and guides us personally in God’s way. He is an intimate Holy Spirit. He will speak to your heart when you pray. When you hear and obey His voice you receive comfort. John 14:26; John 16:13
4. He comforts us through the prayers of others. Through the laying on of hands and prayers of others we receive special graces of the Holy Spirit. When His anointing is released and received into our lives we are strengthened and comforted. Hebrews 6:2

***2 Corinthians 1:3,4***

*3Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercy and the God of all Comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.*

*We are comforted by God not to be comfortable in this life, but to be used by God to be comforters of others who are in need of God’s grace.*