

The Helper Comes | Acts 1.1-5/John 14.15-17

INTRO | THE HELPER

Before we return to Genesis, we will enjoy a brief five-part series called HELPER. We will study **what Jesus taught in John 14-17** before his death and resurrection, and use Acts chapters 1-2 as a backdrop to understand what happened after Jesus gave the Great Commission and ascended to heaven.

As Jesus gave the Great Commission, the disciples must have been intimidated by the global scope of their mission. Perhaps some of the doubts that Matthew recorded were: **How exactly are we going to do that? Knowing that the command is larger than what these men can accomplish on their own, Jesus tells them that 'He will be with them to the end of the age.'** Then, right afterward but before Jesus ascended, He instructs His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Promise of the Father—the **baptism of the Holy Spirit**. Several weeks earlier, Jesus had spent much time warning the disciples that he was going to leave them. But he also taught them that His absence would be filled by the presence of another like Him.

According to the gospel of John, Jesus leaves so that someone called “the Helper” will come. While promising an immediate empowering of sorts, Jesus seems to speak more about a person who would not just come along side, **but actually live in His disciples FOREVER**. In fact, Jesus goes so far as to say to His disciples: *I tell you the truth: it is to your “advantage” that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” (john.16.7)*. Jesus begins his statement with—I tell you the truth—because he knows that his disciples will find it difficult to believe that there could be something better than being with Him in the flesh. **BUT...according to Jesus, as long as we are alive on earth, it is better to be helped by God the Spirit than to be present with God the Son.**

We have a helper...but he is likely the most ignored person in our life. The Holy Spirit is not merely there to assist us, He is essential in helping us fulfill everything God has for us in this life. **Our world tells us to depend on “spiritual life experiences” in order to have relationship with some higher power/God. But the one true God calls us to depend on a spiritual relationship in order to experience the fullness of life God has for us. .**

THE HELPER & THE TRINITY

Theologically, Holy Spirit is considered the third member of the Trinity. The Trinity is one of the most important doctrines in the Christian faith. **You do not need to fully understand the trinity to be saved; but it is essential to believe.** There are many things in Scripture that we cannot fully comprehend just as there are many things in our own world that we don't understand but still accept. The Bible clearly states that God's ways are above our ways. Our finite minds are not capable of understanding every aspect of the infinite and mysterious God—even those things that he has revealed to us. If the Bible clearly teaches the concept of tri-unity, the issue then becomes less about intellectual ascent and **more about submission of reason to the Bible's authority.**

The word "Trinity" comes from "*Trinitas*", a Latin abstract noun that means "three-ness," "the property of occurring three at once" or "three are one." The Greek term used for the Christian Trinity, means "a set of three" or "the number three," and has given the English word *triad*. Unfortunately, the word trinity is probably not the best word to use when describing the nature of God. This is because TRINITY naturally carries a connotation of TRI-THEISM or three Gods. **The word “trinity” is not in the Bible. This is not a challenge to its truthfulness for the word is simply descriptive of concepts that are in the Bible.** Those biblical concepts include:

1. There is one true God.
2. God eternally exists as three persons.
3. The Father is God. The Son is God. The Spirit is God.

4. The Father is not the Son is not the Holy Spirit.

The Trinitarian Godhead is, by nature, eternally personal and relational. Essentially, a “person” is one who possesses intellect, emotions, and will—**which means the Helper is not a force.** The Spirit can talk. The Spirit can comfort. The Spirit can be grieved. The Spirit can be lied to. Each member of the trinity is completely and fully God. Each person is eternal. Each person possesses all the attributes of God. **The three persons exist in an undivided being, yet in that one being are three persons.** The three cannot be completely separated from one another. Creation reveals the trinity. The Exodus from Egypt reveals the trinity. Kings and Kingdoms, Priests and Sacrifices, even prophets and prophecies of the Old Testament reveal the Trinity. In the gospel, the Trinity is revealed at Jesus Birth, His Baptism, His Resurrection, and even the Great Commission. Even in foretelling the arrival of the Holy Spirit, Jesus pointed towards the reality of the Trinity: **John 14.26 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.** Each of the members of the trinity are eternally committed to one another’s glory. **The Spirit is always pointing to Jesus. Jesus is pointing to The Father, father is pointing to Jesus who is pointing us to the Spirit.**

THE HELPER GOD & HELPING

Throughout the Old and New Testaments, the three persons of the Godhead work together for the ONE SAME PURPOSE : **to display the riches of God’s glorious grace through the redemption of mankind and the restoration of the world..** As Psalm 54 indicates, God is our helper; he *did not become* our helper. Since before the creation of the world, God **planned to help men** who would rebel against Him.

We need a helper because we are **helpless in our sin.** We are totally broken, meaning, every part of us is deficient. We cannot work. We cannot relate. We cannot understand. We cannot confess. We cannot experience the fullness of life God has for us. **Without God acting to help His creation, we cannot live. We are spiritually lame, unable to see, walk, or even breathe without help.** Even though all three members of the trinity share the same nature, even though they share the same attributes, even though they share the same commitment to help, they each serve a different role in our redemption.

In other words, the Godhead is a helper who helps in different ways. Consider how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit function in the plan of redemption:

FATHER	SON	HOLY SPIRIT
<u>Administrates Atonement</u>	<u>Accomplishes Atonement</u>	<u>Applies Atonement</u>
<u>Plans/Promises Salvation</u>	<u>Performs Salvation</u>	<u>Presents Salvation</u>
<u>Forms Man</u>	<u>Redeems Man</u>	<u>Reforms Man</u>

ANOTHER HELPER & THE HOLY SPIRIT

Since before the world began, the Holy Spirit has played a particular role in Salvation. The Holy Spirit does not send the Son, the Father does. The Spirit does not die on the cross, the Son does. **The Spirit has a unique role that we will explore over the next few weeks—he comes into our hearts, he seals our salvation, he dwells in our hearts, he sends missionaries, and he unites the church.** He is the active person in our life helping us to see, helping us to walk, and helping us to live on a daily basis.

In John 14.16 Jesus says, **“I will ask the Father, and 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 or knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you AND will be in you.”** **Jesus calls the Holy Spirit “Another Helper” who will be closer to us than Jesus was to the disciples.** Obviously, Jesus describes himself as the first helper. Viewing what Jesus does on the cross as “HELPING US” clarifies the kind of help we are talking

about. Without Jesus helping us the cross, we cannot be saved! In the same way, without the Holy Spirit helping us, we cannot live in that salvation! But many of us try to live a “SPIRIT-LESS” Christianity—one where you resist, quench, or otherwise ignore the HELP of the HOLY SPIRIT. And, as a result, you miss out on the fullness of the new life that God has given us in Christ. **Our first helper Jesus saved us from the helplessness of our deaths, but the Holy Spirit continues to save us in the helplessness of our lives.**

We first learn about the role of “helper” in the book of Genesis. There are many things that God declared GOOD in creation, but there was only one thing that God declared was not GOOD. **Genesis 2.18-20** ¹⁸ Then the LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him. The creation of man alone was insufficient to accomplish God’s purpose—he was incomplete. It is tempting to read the word and think secretary, administrative assistant, or sidekick. **Actually, the term is always used to describe someone who brings significant help and often as someone who delivers another from some great dilemma.** Without the “helper” things fail.

If we view the Spirit as a helper like Jesus, then we see that he is not here simply to assist us—but that we will fail without him. The Father helps give life (which dies), the Son helps give new life, and the Spirit helps live that new life. **The fullness of life that God desires for us to live in CHRIST is only possible if we live IN the Spirit and BY the Holy Spirit.**

To Live IN the SPIRIT means is to live in a state of ASSURANCE in God. | **Ezekiel 36.26** ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

1. The Spirit helps us in our relationship to God (Love and Serve)
2. The Spirit helps us live in the crucifixion (Old and New)
3. The spirit helps us believe. (Loved & Accepted)
4. The Spirit helps us worship (Enjoy & Thank)

To live BY the SPIRIT is to live in a state of DEPENDENCE on God | **Ezekiel 36.27** ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

1. The Spirit helps us in our relationship to others (Love and Serve)
2. The Spirit helps us live out the resurrection (Power and Hope).
3. The Spirit helps us behave. (Delight and Obey)
4. The Spirit helps us witness (Display and proclaim)

ADMITTING HELPLESSNESS & ACCEPTING HELP

We struggle to live this kind of spirit-filled life because we try to live such a life apart from the spirit. Essentially, we struggle admitting we need help, so we struggle asking for it. Ironically, if someone does not live IN the Holy Spirit or BY the Holy Spirit, **that does not mean you are ‘unspiritual’.** **It simply means that you find your assurance in and depend on ANOTHER spirit to get through life.** Just as there are all kinds of Saviors, and different gospels, Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 11 that there are different Spirits. **In other words, we are all spirit-led and accepting help from something.** How do we ensure that we are accepting help from **THE HELPER?**

1. **Prayer - VOICE of Spirit** | Romans 8.26-27 ²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We grieve the Spirit when we turn to other spirits for help only God can give.
2. **Bible - SWORD of the Spirit** | Ephesians 6.16-17 ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. We resist the Spirit when we ignore, change, or misuse Words He has already spoken.
3. **Church - HOUSE of Spirit** | Individually we are called "House of the Holy Spirit" (1Cr 6.19): Ephesians 2.22 ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. We quench the Spirit when we refuse to receive the Holy Spirit's help through God's people.

As simple, old-fashioned, or foolish as it may sound, the secret to experiencing the fullness of life is directly related to our relationship with the Holy Spirit (Someone who is in us and yet can be ignored by us). **Our relationship with him, like all real relationships with real people, will grow in so far as we commune with Him.** We will grow close to the Holy Spirit in so far as we consistently speak with God through His Spirit in prayer, commit to listening to God by His Spirit in the Word, and remain connected with God's people with His Spirit in the church. **God's affection for you will not change by doing any of these things; but your affection for Him more certainly will.**

CONCLUSION

There are many who wrongly believe that "God helps those who help themselves." **That is anti-gospel. The Bible teaches that God helps the helpless. God stands ready to help you. COMMUNION IS FOR THOSE WHO WERE, ARE, and WILL BE HELPLESS.** Let us all admit that we are helpless, every minute of every day, and plead for the Holy Spirit to help us **LIVE IN THE SPIRIT and BY HIS SPIRIT.**

Let us stop grieving the Spirit, resisting the Spirit, or quenching the Spirit and start receiving His help! He is ready to fulfill his promise to help whether we need strength, comfort, or understanding. **Our first helper Jesus saved us from the helplessness of our deaths, but the Holy Spirit continues the saves us in the helplessness of our lives.** If you are struggling in your Christian walk, it is likely a result of your wandering around looking for someone to help rather than walking with the one who came to help.