



## **PNEUMA:** The Helper (John 14:16-17)...Week 4

### - **INTRO:** Why do we North-westerners find it so hard to ask for and receive help?

- It may be true that “it is better to give than to receive,” but it doesn’t make it any wiser to receive help when it’s offered to you, especially if you are an independent North-westerner. Even more, an independent *Christian* North-westerner! Here are some possibilities from a recent professional journal for **why receiving is often more difficult than giving**:
  - **Defense Against Intimacy...**Receiving creates connection. Prioritizing giving over receiving may be a way to keep people distant and our hearts defended. To the extent that we fear intimacy, we may disallow ourselves from receiving a gift or compliment, thereby depriving ourselves of a precious moment of connection.
  - **Letting Go of Control...**When we give, we’re in control in a certain way. It might be easy to offer a kind word or buy someone flowers, but can we allow ourselves to surrender to the good feeling of receiving a gift? And to what extent does our giving actually come from a generous heart versus promoting our self-image of being a caring person? Receiving invites us to welcome a vulnerable part of ourselves. Living in this tender place, we’re more available to receive the gifts we’re offered every day, such as a sincere “thank you,” a compliment, or a warm smile.
  - **Fear of Strings Attached...**We may be uncomfortable receiving if it came with strings attached when growing up. We may have received compliments only when we accomplished something, like excelling at sports or achieving good grades. If we sensed that we weren’t being accepted for who we are but rather for our accomplishments, then receiving may be tinged by the continuing need to perform, which is distasteful. If parents narcissistically used us to meet their own needs, such as to showcase us to their friends, we may equate compliments to being used. We were recognized for what we do rather than for who we really are.
  - **We Believe It Is Selfish to Receive...**Our religion may have taught us that we’re selfish if we receive--that life is more about suffering than being happy. It’s better to be self-effacing and not take up too much space or smile too broadly, lest we bring too much attention to ourselves. As a result of this conditioning, we might feel shame to receive.
  - **A Self-Imposed Pressure to Reciprocate...**Blocks to receiving may be a way to protect us being in someone’s debt. We may suspect their motives, wondering “What do they want from me?” Presuming that compliments or gifts are attempts to control or manipulate us, we preemptively defend ourselves from any sense of obligation or indebtedness by not opening ourselves to the gift.

- **What we loose by not asking for help**

- Think for a moment about the relationships that exist within the Trinity: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **Giving and receiving is a way of life for them.** For us, it's an option. We choose who we will let in and to what degree we will make ourselves vulnerable to their offers to help.
- Unfortunately, when we say "no" to someone's offer of help, we aren't just hindering their ability to give love, but we may also be standing in the way of Jesus extending his love through them to us. It makes you seriously consider just **how much of the Father's love we have rejected** because we simply refused to let someone help us with even the most insignificant gesture of kindness. (1 John 3)

- **ANOTHER HELPER...*parakletos***

- **Another...**As Jesus is wrapping up his ministry on earth, he gathers his disciples together for a very important Passover meal, his final one before the cross. Would encouragement would he give them for the difficult days ahead?

<sup>15</sup> If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Helper** (*parakletos*), to be with you forever, <sup>17</sup> even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. (John 14:15–17 ESV)

- **Important truths...**Here we see Jesus refer to the Holy Spirit as "another Helper." This phrase in itself contains some amazingly powerful revelations of the Holy Spirit and His ministry in our lives. Both of these words: 'another' and 'Helper' contain important truths for us. Lets examine each word:

***allos***...speaks of "another one but of the same kind"

***heteros***...speaks of "another of a different kind"

- **An other one, but the same...**The distinction between these two words is subtle, but important. If I am drinking out of a glass and you ask me to grab you a glass for you as well, I can go to the cupboard and get you another glass that looks identical to mine, or I can choose a glass that looks different, yet is equally useful at holding water. It's still another glass but a different one.
- **Just like Jesus...**In English we use the same word 'another' in both instances, but in the Greek there were two words to show this subtle difference. The first of these, *allos*, is the one that is used in John 14:16 in reference to the Holy Spirit. **Jesus is saying that the Holy Spirit is another of the exact same kind as me...**He'll be to you what I have been to you!
- **The Spirit of God is a person...**The fact that Jesus uses the word 'another' means that He is sending One like Himself – a personality. This is further proof that the Holy Spirit is a Person and not just a force or "thing."
- **We can have as much help as we want...**Really it is up to us how much we take advantage of the indwelling Holy Spirit. If we learn to look to Him and lean upon Him more we will gain more from His Help. If we choose to go on with our lives without looking to Him then we will do without His Help. **He won't force Himself and His Help upon us.** On the earth, Jesus was restricted to a body. He could only be in one place at a time. The Holy Spirit can be in ALL believers at the same time.
- **Helper...**The evidence of the complexity of the word, *parakletos*, is found in the variety words scholars choose to define the greek work *parakletos*...Comforter (KJV), Friend (MESS), Helper (NASB, NKJV), Counselor (NIV), Advocate (NLT), Savior (TPT).

- **We need help!**...Many people think they don't need any help in life. We like to think we can do it all alone, or that we have all the tools we need to be a success in life, but in truth the evidence speaks for itself. We do need help, and God has made available to us the Greatest Helper there is. What a shame it would be to go through life without drawing from His help.
- **The Greek Word translated 'Helper' in the English Standard Version (ESV) Bible is...**“*parakletos*” which means: “summoned, called to one’s side, especially called to one’s aid, one who pleads another’s cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate, one who pleads another’s cause with one, an intercessor, in the widest sense, a helper, succorer, aider, assistant, Comforter, one called alongside to help.” (definitions taken from Strongs, Vincents, Thayers)
- **John leans into this idea of the Holy Spirit being our Helper** again at the end of chapter 14 and in chapters 15 and 16 as well:
  - <sup>25</sup> These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the **Helper** (*parakletos*), 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 ESV)
  - <sup>26</sup> But when the **Helper** (*parakletos*) comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. <sup>27</sup> And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. <sup>1</sup> I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away. (John 15:26–16:1 ESV)
  - <sup>7</sup> Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the **Helper** (*parakletos*) will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. <sup>8</sup> And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; <sup>10</sup> concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; <sup>11</sup> concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. (John 16:7–11 ESV)
- **Jesus is our Advocate**...Right now, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20) where He is taking up to role of our ‘*parakletos*’ before the Father. He is helping us in heaven, speaking up for us before the Throne of God, like a legal assistant or advocate speaks up in a persons defense.
  - <sup>1</sup> My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. <sup>2</sup> He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world. (1 John 2:1–2 NLT-SE)
- **Forgiveness has been secured in Jesus**...Most people think that when they sin is when God turns away from us and keeps us at a distance and as a result we keep our distance from Him in guilt. But God has provided us with an Advocate in heaven who speaks up FOR us (not against us) when we sin. He points to His shed blood and speaks in our defense, gaining our forgiveness, so that when we come before the Father and confess our sins (1 John 1:9).

- **DEEP SCANNING...***parakletos*

**I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter** (*Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby*), **that He may remain with you forever.** ~ John 14:16 (AMP)

- **Comforter**...The word ‘**Comfort**’ (lit. the One called alongside to help you.) speaks of giving strength or support in times of pain or distress, to relieve from depression or trouble, to console or encourage. People need comfort when

they are going through hard times, feeling lonely or afraid, when they have had a great loss. There are times when we all need comfort, and long for someone who will come alongside us, put an arm around us and comfort us in our pain and distress.

- <sup>3</sup> All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is our merciful Father and the source of all **comfort**.  
<sup>4</sup> He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can **comfort** others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same **comfort** God has given us. (2 Cor. 1:3–4 NLT-SE)
- **Counselor...** To counsel someone means to give advice or instruction, helping to direct a person in what to do or to make the correct choices. Often pride will keep a person from listening to counsel and advice. We as humans like to think we have it all together or that we know it all, but that kind of thinking will hinder you. We also have access to more than just human counsel. We have the Holy Spirit, who is our Counsellor, living within us.
  - The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But a wise man is he who listens to **counsel**. (Prov. 12:15 NAS95)
  - Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of **counselors** there is victory. (Prov. 11:14 NAS95)
- **Advocate/Intercessor/Standby...** An intercessor mediates between 2 parties, in this case the Holy Spirit intercedes between God and us. An Advocate is one who speaks up on the behalf of another. They defend another by argument. It is a legal term used in court. The Holy Spirit speaks up for us and defends the work Jesus did on the cross, defending our right for forgiveness and cleansing by the blood of Jesus.
- **Strengtheners...** To strengthen is to add strength or make stronger. There are times each of us feels weak and needs a boost of strength. Often just getting physical strength is not enough, we need inner strength. Our spirits need strengthening, our emotions need strengthening. The Holy Spirit is our Strengtheners, a tremendous source of strength in our lives.
  - <sup>16</sup> ...that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be **strengthened** with power through his Spirit in your inner being, <sup>17</sup> so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, <sup>18</sup> may have **strength** to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, <sup>19</sup> and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:16–19 ESV)

## - POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS

- **The Father's Love...** Partnering with the Father's love is lifelong process of discovery. Imagine you are an orphan, you have nothing that you can call your own. Then, God chooses you to be adopted into his family. You will spend the rest of your life discovering what it means to be part of the family of God and enjoy all the benefits as well! (Rom. 9:8, 1 John 3:1-2)
  - "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." — A.W. Tozer
- **The Son's Friendship...** When we partner with Jesus as a friend, we enter into fellowship (the word is the Greek *koinonia*). A more descriptive word for fellowship is **partnership**.
  - <sup>7</sup> Now you have every spiritual gift you need as you eagerly wait for the return of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup> He will keep you strong to the end so that you will be free from all blame on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns. <sup>9</sup> God will do this, for he is faithful to do what he says, and he has invited you into **partnership** with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Cor. 1:7–9 NLT-SE)
- **The Spirit's Help...** The Holy Spirit was given to us by Jesus as a partner who works from both the outside-in, as well as the inside-out. The nature of a partnership is that each partner has a part. As Rick Joyner says, "The Holy

Spirit is called the “Helper” not the “Doer.” He will not do it without us, but if we engage He will help us with what we need to make it happen.”

- As Christians, we can't get much done without **partnership** with the Spirit, due to our infirmities (limitations). On our own we can't fly, the law of gravity pulls us down to earth. But if we're in a plane, depending on its power, the law of lift overrides it and we operate in a higher realm. The plane helps us overcome our weakness, limitations and inability to fly. So, when trusting in the Spirit, His power lifts us, we operate in the spiritual realm and His strength fills our weakness. But turn off the engines and we drop to earth and the level of our weaknesses. (Rom. 8:26)
- **Complaining** is one thing that really hinders the work of the Spirit in our lives. People who habitually complain have essentially **refused the help of the Helper**. Complaining isn't harmless sport; it's serious sin. Paul wrote, “And do not grumble, as some of them did — and were killed by the destroying angel.” (1 Corinthians 10:10)

- **Partnering with your “family”**

- **Natural family...**One of the very first promises of the Bible is a promise God gave to Abraham—part of that promise included God's desire to bless Abraham's family and through him to bless all the families of the earth! The Lord wanted to be sure we understood that this promise wasn't just for Abraham or for the Jewish people, but it was for us as Christians. Listen to this: “And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you.” (Gal. 3:29 NLT-SE)
- **Spiritual family...**“God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.” (Eph. 1:5 NLT-SE)
  - **Rick Warren**, Pastor of Saddleback Church says, “Your spiritual family, God's family, is going to outlast even your physical family. Physical families don't last. They grow up, they move away, they die. But the spiritual family of God is going to go on and on for eternity...You cannot fulfill God's purposes by yourself. God wired us to need each other. We need each other in the family of God.”
  - God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to **serve one another**. (1 Pet. 4:10 NLT-SE)

- **Partnering with co-workers...**We partner with our co-workers when we realize that “anything that's worth doing is worth doing well...together.” **Competition** in the work place is a killer. If we can somehow lay aside our personal agendas and find a way to partner together for the sake of the task at hand, we often find God will give us a beautiful grace to get the job done. When the going gets tough, we're there for each other in remarkable ways. (2 Cor. 1:3–4)
- **Partnering with the poor...**The poor are NOT a **problem** to new fixed, but provides Jesus followers an **opportunity** to see the heart of the Father reflected in our actions. In fact, **the poor may be much more important to our journey than any of us realize...**
  - **Audio: The poor are not our project, but out partners:** A vision from **Adam Scott** while he was teaching about the Holy Spirit at Bridgetown Church in Portland in April 2019.
  - <sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon **me**, for the LORD has anointed **me** to bring good news to the poor. He has sent **me** to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed...<sup>4</sup> **They** will rebuild the ancient ruins, repairing cities destroyed long ago. **They** will revive them, though **they** have been deserted for many generations. (Is. 61:1, 4 NLT-SE)