

**JOHN 14:15-21**  
**THE HELPER!**

Please turn in your Bibles this morning to John chapter 14 as we continue our in-depth study of the Gospel of John.

As we have seen, we are hours away from the crucifixion of Jesus, maybe some 12 hours or so. And all that was before Him, with all that He was going to encounter, we see Jesus not focused on Himself, but on His men that will carry on the work when He is gone!

Keep in mind that John chapters 13-17 cover maybe a six-hour period of time, from about 6 pm on Wednesday evening to about midnight.

And as I have said, these chapters constitute Jesus' final words to His disciples before His crucifixion. In other words, His "*farewell address.*"

He will be spending these last few hours instructing them, teaching them but mostly comforting them.

Why did they need that comforting?

Because the next few days will be especially difficult for them as their whole world will be turned upside down.

Make no mistake about it, they were nervous. They were fearful.

How do I know that? How can I be so sure?

Just listen to what Jesus said to them in John 14:1-3, **“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.”**

Yes, He was going to leave them but, in His absence, He was going to prepare a place for them, a place for their spirit and soul to dwell in, an eternal body that will spend eternity with the Lord!

That is encouraging!

Not only that, but even though He is going away, He is going to come back to receive them to Himself! What a precious promise to these men who were nervous, who were afraid. ***Do not be troubled!*** And the Lord wants us to understand that as well!

This morning, in this farewell address you might say, Jesus is going to tell His men that He is not going to leave them alone. He is going to send a Helper who will assist them in the work that they will be doing.

Today, we see much of the world and even many Christians who feel that they just have to try harder, maybe go to this seminar to get the right information or read this book, and they can be successful! We call it – ***HUMAN POTENTIAL!***

The Bible calls it – ***PRIDE!***

And what I mean by that is that we think we can accomplish anything and everything on our own. Kind of a self-help mindset!

Let me show you what I mean about this from an article on human potential and what it is all about. Again, many Christians are keyed into this way of thinking, but, as we will see, the flesh will profit you nothing because the flesh is out to seek its own and thus, you do not have the power to overcome it on your own!

We are told in an article from April of 2022,

As we prepare for our *Irresistible Conference* (where I will be launching my book), I've been thinking back about all we've been through over the last five years. It's a lot.

We've suffered through the pandemic, political instability, a global climate crisis, and now a war. Employees are burned out, stress levels are at all-time highs, and companies are struggling to hire. How do we, as business and HR leaders, make sense of all this?

I would suggest that there's "*one big thing*" that matters. And this one thing, which you may not have considered, is what business success is all about.

***Unleashing human potential.***

Every one of us wants to do more. We all wake up in the morning wanting to have a great day. We want our children and families to thrive. And we want to find a place in the world where we can succeed.

For some of us, this means going to college, finding a great career, and working our way up the pyramid. For others it means becoming a loving parent, friend, or caregiver. For others it may mean becoming a scientist, inventing something, or discovering something new. And for others our life is all about art, creativity, and invention – we want to make the world a more beautiful place.

These are the existential, irresistible components of human nature. We all want to *“become something”* in our lives. And even dictators, as evil as they seem, are trying to *“become something”* in their own weird and twisted way. . . .

As Chevron likes to put it, they’re in the business of *“creating human energy.”* If you figure out a way to do this in your company, I promise you’ll be unstoppable. Or as we like to call it, Irresistible. . . .

- <https://bit.ly/3wITJiq>

Now in reading that you may not see anything wrong with it. A person just wants to be better, what can be wrong with that?

First of all, let me give you the definition of Human Potential and then I will tell you why this approach will never work.

Wikipedia gives us this definition of *Human Potential*. They tell us, **“Human potential** is the capacity for humans to improve themselves through studying, training, and practice, to reach the limit of their ability to develop aptitudes and skills. ‘Inherent within the notion of human potential is the belief that in reaching their full potential an individual will be able to lead a happy and more fulfilled life.’”

First point is simple. *“Human potential is the capacity for humans to improve themselves.”*

What is missing from this statement?

**GOD!**

Jesus reminds us that we can't do anything apart from Him. Listen to what He said in John 15:5, "**I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.**"

And Paul tells us in Galatians 6:3, "**For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.**"

And yet, we have so many people, so many seminars, so many Christians who believe that they are something, that they have this human potential to be anything and anyone they want.

But God says that if you are thinking that way, you are deceiving yourself. And think about it. People are looking for happiness, contentment in achieving their human potential and yet, how many Americans are discouraged, depressed, unhappy?

Some 23% of Americans are depressed and that is not even dealing with them being discouraged and unhappy!

You see, apart from God, you will never find what you are looking for and Jesus is going to show His men that very fact as God will send – ***THE HELPER!***

Now please understand that I am not saying we don't do anything. That we sit around and wait for God to bring that perfect job or whatever into our lives.

No, we are involved in the things of God, seeking His direction in the things that we should be doing and avoiding those things that we should not be doing. And, again, we can't do that on our own, we need – ***THE HELPER!***

I have broken the verses we will be looking at this morning into the following points.

They are,

***OBEDIENCE TO THE LORD – JOHN 14:15***

***HOW CAN I ACCOMPLISH THAT – JOHN 14:16-18***

***BECAUSE HE LIVES, SO WILL WE – JOHN 14:19-21***

With that as our introduction, let's begin reading in John chapter 14, beginning in verse 15 as Jesus continues to teach His men, encourage His men in the work that is coming for them when He is gone!

## **JOHN 14**

### **VERSE 15**

What does Jesus mean when He says, "**If you love Me . . .**"?

People have all kinds of strange ideas of what it means to love God and yet, Jesus tells us here what that love is all about.

Before I deal with what Jesus meant, let me share these words with you because Spurgeon said this in regard to what some people think this all means.

He wrote, "*Some persons think that if they love Jesus, they must enter a convent, retire to a cell, dress themselves queerly, or shave their heads. It has been the thought of some men, 'If we love Christ we must strip ourselves of everything we possess, put on sackcloth, tie ropes round our waists, and pine in the desert.' Others have thought it wise to make light of themselves by oddity of dress and behavior. The Savior does not say anything of the kind; but, 'If ye love me, keep my commandments.'*"

Love is the key in all that we do for the Lord and really, it should be the key in all that we do for others!

Warren Wiersbe put it like this. And keep in mind that Jesus just spoke of prayer and whatever we ask in His name the Father will do. Warren Wiersbe wrote,

*Both love and obedience are part of effective prayer.*

*“If I regard [see and approve] iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me” (Ps 66:18).*

*We do not obey the Lord simply because we want our prayers answered, somewhat like the attitude of a child just before Christmas.*

*We obey Him because we love Him; and the more we obey Him, the more we experience His love.*

*To “keep” His commandments means to value them, treasure them, guard them, and do them. “I have esteemed the words of His mouth more than my necessary food” (Job 23:12).*

*Believing prayer is wonderful medicine to soothe a troubled heart. Meditate on Phil 4:6-7 - and then put it into practice!*

*[Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.]*

- Warren Wiersbe, the Wiersbe Bible Commentary – NT, p. 281

So, how do we show our love for Jesus?

By being obedient to Him, by obeying His Word to us! Just as Jesus showed His love for God the Father, we show our love to God by being obedient to Him, as I have said.

I like the way that my pastor put. He wrote,

*Answered prayer also depends on our obedience to Christ. This promise is given to those who love Him, and the evidence of their love is the keeping of His commandments.*

*Love will be demonstrated by obedience to Christ. An undisciplined Christian cannot say that he loves the Lord Jesus.*

*The Lord Jesus was about to leave His disciples, and they would be filled with sorrow. How would they be able to express their love to Him?*

*The answer was by keeping His commandments. Not by tears, but by obedience. The commandments of the Lord are the instructions which He has given us in the Gospels, as well as the rest of the NT.*

- Pastor Phil Ballmaier, John 14

Exactly!

Now, in the New Testament there are some 1,050 commands given to us. And those 1,050 commands fit under about 800 headings!

That is a huge number considering Adam and Eve had one and they failed.

So what are we to do?

I think those 1,050 commands are summed up for us in just two commands! I know, shocking, but true.

Let me show you what I mean.

Remember in Matthew chapter 22 as the lawyer asked Jesus, “... **‘Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?’**” Matthew 22:36.



First of all, we need to keep in mind that the Jewish religious leaders had come to the conclusion that there were 613 commandments in the Old Testament.

They broke them down like this.

Of those 613 commandments 248 of them were positive, what you can do, and 365 were negative, what you can't do.

Out of those 613 the question that was debated by these religious leaders was which one was the greatest?

And keep in mind that they are trying to catch Jesus on this one.

How could this catch Jesus by this question?

Because these religious leaders debated this for years and couldn't come to any conclusions and now if Jesus comes up and says that one carries more weight than the other, they would be able to condemn Him or so they thought!

Listen to what Jesus said and then I will expound on this.

Jesus said, “... **‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.**” Matthew 22:37-40.

Jesus went right to the heart of the Law, the Shema and He quotes out of Deuteronomy chapter 6, part of the Shema, which means “*to hear.*”

The whole portion goes like this, **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”** Deuteronomy 6:4-9.

The idea here is that God wants us to love Him with our complete being, that is the greatest commandment, and it comes out of the first Table of the Law.

And once you have the first and the greatest commandment down, once you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, then you can accomplish the second greatest commandment, loving your neighbor as yourself! All the 1,050 commands are born out of these two commands by Jesus, to love God and to love others!

And this command to love others comes from the second Table of the Law and apart from getting your relationship with God right you will not be able to get your relationship with others in line.

Now some of you may be thinking how in the world did I come to the conclusion that to love God you have to receive Jesus Christ into your life as Lord and Savior?

Good question and I guess I was being a little unfair but look at verse 40 again and I think you will see what I mean.

Jesus said, **“On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”** Matthew 22:40.

I love this verse because this is the key to what Jesus is saying here.

If our vertical axis with God is right, if we love God supremely, then our horizontal axis with man will be in line also.

Do you see the picture that emerges from this?

It is a cross - all that God has said through the prophets and the Law hangs on the finished work of Christ on the cross of Calvary!

You cannot love God supremely apart from Christ because apart from Christ man is at war with God.

You cannot love your neighbor as yourself because apart from Christ man is selfish!

That means that apart from the cross, apart from coming to Christ we cannot fulfill these words of Jesus and only by the power of God's Spirit working in us and through us can we live them out!

It is only those who have been born again that can accomplish this and only by allowing Christ to do it through them by His Spirit!

Jesus is the example of someone who was obedient to the Word of God and to God the Father. And now He is telling us that we too need to be obedient to the Word of God and God the Father. That is a little troubling. Why is that troubling?

First of all, we need to keep in mind that Jesus said in John 14:1, "**Let not your heart be troubled . . .**"

In knowing what Jesus said, how we are to love God and love our fellow man when we know we blow it, and we blow it a lot. So, what kind of comfort is that to us?

If we are to show our love for the Lord by being obedient to His Word, by keeping His commandments, again, we fall far short of accomplishing that on our own.

So how can we do this?

I have given you the answer but listen to what comfort He will give to them.

And I have called these verses – ***HOW CAN I ACCOMPLISH THAT!***

### VERSES 16-18

When you look at other religions of the world, they all tell you how you are to live. They tell you that you can do this but don't do that.

It sounds so good and yet, with all these things that we are to do and not do, there is something that is missing!

What is missing?

The power to accomplish those things that they want us to do and not do!

But there is a difference when we come to Christianity. Yes, the Bible tells us how we are to live out our faith, what God desires of us, that we keep His commandments, and they are all for our benefit, for our well-being!

But here is the difference. God not only tells us how to live but then He gives to us the power to live accordingly, and that is what we see here with these verses that I have called – ***HOW CAN I ACCOMPLISH THAT!***

And as we will see, it will be the power of the Holy Spirit working in us to guide us, to give us the strength to accomplish what we could never do on our own!

Remember that Jesus has been telling them that He is going away, that He is going to the cross to be crucified and then raised the third day.

And what was their response to what He told them?

Their hearts were troubled over all that Jesus was telling them.

But Jesus gives them these words of comfort as He speaks of this “**Helper**” or “**Comforter.**”

And He is speaking of the Holy Spirit.

In the Greek, it is *PARAKLETOS*.

This Greek word speaks of “*a person summoned to one’s aid.*”

The Holy Spirit is coming alongside of us to help us, and I am so thankful for that!

Also, Jesus says that He will send us “**another helper**” and the word He uses for “**another**” in the Greek is important.

It is the Greek word *ALLOS* and it means another of the same kind.

There is another Greek word that Jesus could have used, *HETEROS*, but this word means another of a different kind!

Thus, Jesus is sending His men an exact representation of Himself in the person of the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit is not some force, as some like to tell us, but the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Holy Trinity!

Let me show you what I mean.

In Acts chapter 5, as the church is getting started and growing, we see Ananias come along and sell some of his property and he gives some of the money to Peter, but he held some back and lied about what he was doing.

And Peter said to him, “**. . . ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?’**” Acts 5:3.

I think we all agree that Peter is speaking of lying to the Holy Spirit here and you might be thinking, “*True, but that does not prove that the Holy Spirit is Almighty God!*”

You are right, it doesn't, but let's read on in this same story and notice what Peter says at the end of Acts 5:4, "**... You have not lied to men but to God.**"

I think that is pretty clear. In Acts 5:2 Peter is speaking about how Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit and now, here in Acts 5:4 we see that this lying that Ananias was doing to the Holy Spirit, and we are told that the Holy Spirit is God!

So we have God the Father who is Almighty God!

We have God the Holy Spirit who is Almighty God!

And some may say, "*What about Jesus?*"

If you have been with us in our study of the Gospel of John, you have seen that Jesus constantly spoke of Him and God the Father being one or that Jesus is Almighty God. What we see is the Holy Trinity. Yes, that word may not be in the Bible, but it doesn't need to be because we have clear evidence of the Trinity - God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit!

Remember in John 10:30 Jesus said, "**I and My Father are one.**"

The word that Jesus used here for "**one**" (*HEN* in the Greek) does not suggest that the Father and the Son are the same identical person. It speaks of them being one in essence.

You see, the Father is God, the Son is God, but don't make the mistake as some do and say that then the Father is the Son, and the Son is the Father as the Jesus Only people do. That is not what is being said here. One God and here two distinct persons!

Also, Spiros Zodhiates put it this way in his book *The Complete Word Study New Testament*: "Heis means one numerically while hen means one in essence, as in John 10:30; "I and my Father are one (hen)" (i.e., one in essence although two different personalities). Had it said heis, it would have meant one person."

You see, He is speaking of unity not identity! To me, you don't even have to understand Greek to get this one.

Just read the next verse and you will see the Jews knew exactly what He was saying, and they were ready to respond appropriately, at least in their own minds!

In John 10:31-33 we read, **“Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Jesus answered them, ‘Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?’ The Jews answered Him, saying, For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”**

So, we see in John chapter 10 that Jesus taught that He and the Father were God and here in John chapter 14 we see that the Holy Spirit is God!

And please understand that we do not worship three different Gods! We worship One God who is manifested in three distinct Persons: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, like I have said!

Now David, in Psalm 51:11 says, **“Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.”** That can never happen to us today. Once we come to Christ the Holy Spirit is with us forever.

Yes, we can quench the Spirit, grieve the Spirit, even hinder the Spirit from working in our lives, but He will never leave us!

How do I know that the Holy Spirit will never leave us? Because Jesus said in John 14:16, **“... He may abide with you forever.”** I think that is clear!

Now I need to deal with this other issue, and it is important. Here in John chapter 14 we see that there are two Greek prepositions used here regarding the Holy Spirit.

First, the Holy Spirit was “**with**” them, the Greek word *PARA*, because Jesus hadn’t died and rose from the dead yet.

Today, the Holy Spirit is with people drawing them to Jesus and once they receive Jesus then the Holy Spirit comes “**in**” them, the Greek word *EN*.

Paul said in Romans 8:9, “**But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.**”

We see this happen to the disciples of Jesus, the Holy Spirit coming “**in**” them in John 20:22, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, where we read, “**And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’**”

At this point they are New Testament saints, but Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they are endued with power from on high. (Luke 24:49)

Therefore, there is one more Greek preposition that the Bible uses for the Holy Spirit and that is found in Acts 1:8, “**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**”

It is the Greek word *EPI* or “**upon**” and it speaks of the Holy Spirit coming upon a believer to empower them to be witnesses of Him. We see this with the Old Testament saints.

The Holy Spirit never indwelt them, but the Holy Spirit did empower them for the work.

Look at how this is played out today.

You see, the Holy Spirit is *with* us drawing us to Christ, *PARA*.

Then the Holy Spirit is *in* us when we get saved, *EN*.

And also, after we get saved the Holy Spirit comes *upon* us, *EPI* to empower us for the work!



And this empowering of the Holy Spirit is to move the Gospel message forward! Think of it like a steam locomotive. The steam in the locomotive is not there to toot its whistle but to move the train forward!

We see a lot of people tooting their whistle today in Christianity and not moving the Gospel message forward.

Also, the Holy Spirit is not given to us to work instead of us, but the Holy Spirit is to work through us, empowering us for the work!

Also, the Holy Spirit is the “**spirit of truth.**” That is what Jesus said in John 14:17.

Look at what is infiltrating the church today, the false doctrine that is blowing in and moving the church away from God, and you may wonder why that is happening.

Yes, many do not know the Scriptures and they are taken in by these things, by these new doctrines you might say.

One writer put it like this. He wrote,

“He will teach you all things.”

It is often the case that hungry believers, needy as they know themselves to be, are more eager for experience than they are for revelation.

They want a minimum of truth and study, with a maximum of results.

But the more experience-centered these believers become, the less truth-established they will be.

The penalty of this wrong emphasis is self-centeredness instead of Christ-centeredness.

This sad and selfish condition develops when we endeavor to handle and control the truth that we see. But the truth of the Word does not respond to self.

Yes, as Christians we have experiences with Christ, that is very true. We live in this world and God is working in us and through us.

The problem comes when we let experience drive us, guide us instead of the Holy Spirit in accordance with the Word of God.

The key is being led by the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit!

In I John chapter 4 we see John warn us that we are to test the spirits to see if they are of God. Test the teachings to see if they are of God.

And then, in I John 4:4-6 we are told, **“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”**

We have overcome these false teachings because we have the Spirit of truth in us or **“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”**

We can know what truth is from what error is because the Spirit of truth is in us. Thus, as we read the Word of God and compare it to what is being spoken by pastors, teachers, leaders, people, we can know if it is the truth, or it is error.

And folks, why hold onto what is error? That makes no sense to me and yet people continue to do it and try to justify it but if it is contrary to what the Scriptures are saying, it is wrong, it is error.

Remember what Paul told Timothy, **“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”** II Timothy 3:16-17.

That means Genesis through Revelation is given to us by God! And the warning after Paul said that all Scripture is breathed from the mouth of God to us is this, **“I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”** II Timothy 4:1-5.

Yes, it is not going to be easy, people will not want to hear the truths of God found in the Word of God but you ***“Preach the Word!”***

Just think of what a person is saying regarding God and the Bible like this and remember that the Spirit of truth is guiding us in the truths of God found in the Word of God. This is so simple, and I think it nails it!

***IF IT IS NEW, IT IS NOT TRUE. AND IF IT IS TRUE, IT IS NOT NEW!***

God has given to us everything we need in His Word, and He has given to us a Helper, someone to come alongside of us and guide us, ***THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH!*** Amen to that!

How can we live out this faith that we have in Christ? Not by our might, not by our power but by the power of God’s Spirit working in us and through us! (Zechariah 4:6)

One writer put it like this. He wrote regarding the Holy Spirit and how the church has negated what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives, and they are relying on their own strength to accomplish what only the Holy Spirit can do in our lives. This is what he said,

When I was a young man preaching around the country, I received constant requests for messages on the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Christians talked about walking in the Spirit and what it was to be filled with the Spirit. The manifestation and use of spiritual gifts was a topic of great interest.

However that has changed. The Holy Spirit now seems to be the forgotten member of the Trinity. Therefore the priority of the Holy Spirit in the life of the church must again be asserted. . .

If a person receives eternal salvation and the fullness of the indwelling Holy Spirit through wholeheartedly trusting in the crucified Christ, why in the world would he trade in supernatural power for human effort?

That's what Paul wanted to know in Galatians 3. You cannot achieve a spiritual goal by natural means.

The Holy Spirit produces spiritual life initially and He also sustains it. The Holy Spirit is to the Christian what the Creator is to the creation.

Without God the world would never have come into existence. And without His sustaining it, the world would go out of existence. Similarly, without the Holy Spirit none of us would ever become saved. And without His constant sanctifying, sustaining, and preserving work, the spiritual life of the Christian would drop back into the spiritual deadness whence it came. Paul said, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil. 1:6). Indeed, "we live by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:25).

In the evangelical church today so many are attempting to perfect in the flesh what was begun by the Spirit. Systematically and subtly, the Holy Spirit is being eliminated from the matter of sanctification. That poses a monumental threat to the church. Unless we are perfected by the Holy Spirit, all our efforts are in vain. . . .

We often act as if “the weapons of our warfare are . . . of the flesh” (contrary to 2 Cor. 10:4).

People who tell others to solve their problems by getting in touch with themselves, rather than the Spirit of God, are using the pragmatic approach. They are attempting to solve problems by programs and methodology rather than spiritual power. . . .

Our counselor must be God. The great tragedy of the church today is that it is filled with sin and weakness - a situation that will continue to get worse until we realize that spiritual warfare is fought with spiritual weapons.

Techniques, theories, and therapies will never restrain the flesh because they appeal to the flesh.

Solutions to personal, family, and church problems are found in God’s counsel ministered through the Spirit of God.

We must turn to the Spirit of God and learn to walk in the Spirit and know the power of the Spirit. We must reject man-centered, humanistic, psychological solutions to problems. Built into such solutions are false impressions of man’s ability, which create the illusion of sanctification by intellectual achievement.

The Galatians tried to perfect in the flesh what began in the Spirit, but it was a false solution then and it is a false solution now.

Very wise words. The flesh is weak, and the flesh is corrupt. Thus, we need the Spirit of God to guide us, comfort us, correct us, help us to live as God wants us to live!

Let me share a few Scriptures with you to show you what I mean.

First of all, listen to what Paul says about the flesh in Galatians 5:17, **“For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.”**

If that is true, and it is, then why in the world do we think we can follow the Lord, be obedient to His Word by doing it on our own, the flesh! We can't and it won't happen!

Listen to what Paul said in Galatians 5:16-18 and please see what we are to do as Christians. He wrote, **“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.”**

If you don't see the battle between the flesh and the Spirit, then you are going to be in trouble and you will try to accomplish, in the flesh, what God wants from you, and you will fail! The flesh is contrary to the things of God!

Now, if you are going to try and live in the flesh, accomplishing these things in the flesh, Paul goes on to show you what will be seen in your life, and it truly is a picture of the flesh. In Galatians 5:19-21, **“Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”**

Now Paul is speaking of those that are not saved here, but we as Christians can also do the works of the flesh, these things can be manifested in our lives if we don't walk in the Spirit.

I want you to see the contrast between the works of the flesh and walking in the Spirit. Paul goes on to say in Galatians 5:22-25, **“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.”**

The flesh can never love with that *AGAPE* love because this kind of love only comes from God as you are walking in the Spirit. And what is manifested from that love is the joy, peace, and the rest!

In Romans 8:6-8 listen to what Paul says and he is speaking of this battle between the flesh and the Spirit. He wrote, **“For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”**

Where are you living this morning?

You see, apart from the Holy Spirit empowering you, guiding you, you will not keep His commandments because the flesh is warring against the things of the Spirit of God, what He wants in your life!

So, Jesus is sending us the Holy Spirit to teach us the truths of God found in the Word of God. To give us comfort, guidance, wisdom, spiritual gifts, peace and the power to walk accordingly!

As one writer put it in regard to growing in the Lord, he wrote,

For that life to develop within, He reveals to us the Lord Jesus in the Word.

Thus, feeding on Him in the Scriptures under the illumination of the Spirit of Truth, the new life in Christ grows and is made manifest in our mortal body.

We grow in Him as we allow the Holy Spirit to show Him to us. ***“We all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord”*** (2 Corinthians 3:18).

What comfort there is in the faithful work of the Comforter!

In the natural realm, a worm is changed into a butterfly – a different creature, but the same order of life.

In the Spiritual realm, a believer is reborn – a totally ***“new creation in Christ Jesus”*** (2 Cor. 5:17, mg.)

Therefore, we ***“yield ourselves into God, as those that are alive from the dead,”*** and in dependence on the Comforter we ***“walk in the newness of life”*** (Rom. 6:13, 6:4).

- - Miles J. Stanford, *The Complete Green Letters*, p. 198

And there is one more point that Jesus is going to share with His men here in our study this morning, and that is – ***BECAUSE HE LIVES, SO WILL WE!***

#### VERSES 19-21

Remember that Jesus spoke to them about His death, that He was going away. So their hearts were troubled but what we see here is that Jesus is telling them not to be troubled – ***BECAUSE HE LIVES, SO WILL YOU!***



Death is something that everyone of us will have to deal with. The death of a loved one. The death of a friend. The death of a co-worker. And yes, our own death!

Look at this list, in order, of what Americans are fearful about!

1. *Loved ones dying*
2. *Loved ones becoming seriously ill*
3. *Mass shootings*
4. Not having enough money for retirement
5. Terrorism
6. Government corruption
7. *Becoming terminally ill*
8. Hate crimes
9. *High medical bills*
10. Widespread civil unrest

Overall, death, health issues and public violence emerged as the most pressing worries, with financial strain, distrust of government, and environmental concerns looming alongside standard fears like crime, slimy creatures, and car crashes. The comprehensive study revealed:

- 45 percent of people are experiencing more daily anxiety and fear than they were 12 months ago.
- After a year of isolation and conflict, the idea of losing loved ones generates a great deal of fear: 65 percent were afraid of the death of a loved one, and 1 in 5 people were afraid of losing relationships due to political differences.

- <https://bit.ly/3q3hFte>

And, in the midst of all this fear, all this anxiety that we have today, we also see that the disciples of Jesus were troubled, they were fearful and Jesus tells them not to be trouble, not to be fearful.

Why?

Because God the Father will send the Comforter to them, the Holy Spirit!

We will see this in John 14:27 where Jesus said, **“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”**

You see, this peace that God gives to us is not like the world’s peace, which is not peace at all. There is no peace for the wicked the Bible tells us. (Isaiah 48:22, 57:21)

But the peace that God gives is a peace that surpasses all our understanding because it is the peace of God that calms our fears because our hope is in Him. That is the Holy Spirit working, helping us to rest in Jesus!

We also see here that Jesus will no longer manifest Himself to unbelievers like He does to those who love Him and obey His Words.

In the Incarnation both believers and unbelievers saw Him.

But now, after His death and resurrection believers see Him.

What I mean by that is God dwells on the throne of our hearts and His truths are manifested to us by His Spirit! We see Jesus with our eyes of faith and one day, face to face as we go to be with Him! (I John 3:1-3)

Yes, the Holy Spirit is drawing unbelievers to Christ, that is one of the works of the Holy Spirit.

And here is a glorious truth, because He lives, so will we. Death has no more sting upon our lives.

Peter put it this way in I Peter 1:3-5, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”**

We’ve got a living hope.

Why?

Because He lives, we too shall live.

So *“The world won’t see Me anymore; but you’ll see Me: and because I live, you too shall live.”*

Our hope for eternal life rests upon the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. And that makes it more than a hope, it gives to us a living hope because He rose from the dead.

Paul said in I Corinthians 15:20-22, **“But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”**

You see, what a glorious promise God has given to us, and it is all based upon His death and resurrection!

It is as Spurgeon said, *“A man is saved because Christ died for him, he continues saved because Christ lives for him. The sole reason why the spiritual life abides is because Jesus lives.”*

The Bible is clear, we are to walk in obedience to the Lord, to His Word.

The problem is that we don't have the power in ourselves to accomplish that task because the flesh is waring against us.

But God has given to us His Spirit to live in us and to empower us to live the kind of life He has called us to live.

That is amazing to me. God not only tells us how to live but then He helps us to live that way as the Holy Spirit speaks to our hearts, opens up the Word of God to us and gives us the power to live as He has called us to live, as I have said.

And it all boils down to this. In all these things we do not need to be troubled, God is with us and because He lives, we will also live with Him for eternity! Praise the Lord for all that He has given to us!

Let me close with this for you to think about. We are told,

Along our highways, well placed at appropriate locations, are official signs which give us direction and warn us of danger.

Most of these are the reflector type; that is, they are designed to reflect the light of auto headlamps.

In darkness, they are invisible to anyone who travels without a light.

But when our auto headlights are flashed upon these signs, they reflect back to us their message of guidance or caution.

Their nighttime aid to us depends upon the light we bring to them. They have no meaning for unlighted lamps.

God would like to guide us through the days and through the years of this life. His signs are out there - in all the appropriate places.

But whether we see them will depend upon the light with which we approach them.

- A Treasury of Bible Illustrations

May the light of God guide us in the ways we need to go! Remember what Jesus said in John 6:63, it is the **“Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.”**