

=THE HOLY SPIRIT=

Lesson 1

Our Baby-Sitter

INTRODUCTION: We now begin a new series of lessons on the Holy Spirit. Several times in the Bible the Holy Spirit is called a comforter. The word “comforter” is the word in the Greek “paraclete.” It means “helper,” “someone to run to our side when we are in need, when we stumble,” etc. Jesus was going back to Heaven. He had been our paraclete, the One Who ran to the side of His own. I John 2:1, “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” He tells His disciples that now that He is going back, He is going to give another paraclete, even the Spirit of Truth. This is the Holy Spirit. Actually Jesus is saying that He is going to give us a baby-sitter to care for us, run to our side and help us while He is gone. Let us notice a few things that His “Heavenly Baby-sitter” does.

- I. **HE STRIVES.** Genesis 6:3, “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” He was the One you felt talking to you before you got saved. He is the One Who pleaded with you to come to Christ and convicted you of your need for Christ.
- II. **HE ENLIGHTENS.** Job 32:8, “But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.” This means He helps us make decisions; He gives us insight that others do not have.
- III. **HE GIVES US PHYSICAL STRENGTH.** Judges 14:6, 19, “And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done. And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father’s house.” There are times when God’s people get tired and sometimes even get sick. The Holy Spirit gives us physical strength that we do not normally have.
- IV. **HE GIVES WISDOM.** Judges 3:10, “And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the LORD delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.” Isaiah 11:2, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” He gives us discernment. He helps us make the right decisions. Of course, we must depend upon Him to do so and ask Him for His help.
- V. **HE GIVES US UNDERSTANDING.** Again we read Isaiah 11:2, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” He can help us on tests at school. He can help us with decisions at work. He can help us to know how to rear our children. He can lead us to make the right decisions.
- VI. **HE GIVES KNOWLEDGE.** Again we notice Isaiah 11:2, “And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.” This knowledge He gives mainly through His Word. It was He Who inspired the writing of the Word of God, and every word in the Bible was given by Him to holy men of old who wrote it down. However, when there is something we face for which the answer is not found plainly written in the Bible, He gives us added knowledge.
- VII. **HE LEADS.** Romans 8:14, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” The word “led” here is the same word we would use to talk about a track leading a train. If the train stays on the track, it is useful and arrives at its destination properly. If it gets off the track, tragedy follows. The same is true with a Christian who does not follow the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is our “track.” We are to stay in His will as He leads us.
- VIII. **HE GIVES ASSURANCE.** Romans 8:16, “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” In the Jewish court, two witnesses made something stay up as true. The words in

verse 16 mean that the Holy Spirit bears witness alongside our spirit. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit tells our spirit that we are saved. It means the Holy Spirit stands up in God's court and bears witness of our salvation; then our own spirit also bears witness of it. Hence, the two give us assurance that we are saved.

- IX. THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL RAISE THE DEAD. This is why a person has to be born again to go to Heaven because at the new birth the Holy Spirit comes into our bodies. It is He Who will raise us from the dead.
- X. HE HELPS OUR WEAKNESSES. Romans 8:26, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." The word "infirmities" here means "weaknesses" or "sicknesses." What it amounts to is that the Holy Spirit helps the Christian in every weakness that he might possess.

CONCLUSION: All of the above things are contingent upon our yielding to Him daily and asking for His help. The Christian can successfully live the Christian life only as he seeks the help and leadership of the Holy Spirit.