



**“I have said these things to you while I am still with you.
But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send
in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you
of all that I have said to you.” John 14:25–26**

Jesus Promises the Spirit of Truth to His Church

JOHN 14:15–31 ¹⁵*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.*

¹⁸*“I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.” ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it that you will reveal yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³Jesus answered him, “Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. ²⁴Whoever does not love me*

does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

²⁵“I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. ²⁸You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I am coming to you.’ If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. ²⁹And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe. ³⁰I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; ³¹but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.

Jesus came to reveal to us the ultimate truth, the truth of the Father’s love experienced by Jesus and manifested in his life, death, and resurrection. We are invited to participate in this truth by becoming one with Jesus through faith. This is accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus calls the “Advocate” (verse 16) and “the Spirit of truth” (verse 17). The word translated as “Advocate” means literally “one called to the side of another.” The role of the Holy Spirit is to assist the believer in discovering all the real and practical implications of the profound truth revealed by Jesus. This Spirit of truth is instinctively and interiorly experienced as an abiding presence by those who follow the glorified Jesus (verse 17).

Even though Jesus is departing, he promises not to leave his disciples as orphans (verse 18). He promises that he will come to them and remain with them through his Spirit. Because they have been born from above and have become children of the Father, they will experience the loving intimacy of God’s family even more closely: “You will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you” (verse 20).

The presence of the Holy Spirit, “whom the world cannot receive” (verse 17), is unable to be “seen” in the usual and worldly sense of the term (verse 19). For that reason, Judas asks Jesus why the disciples and the world see things so differently (verse 22). Jesus explains that those who do not accept God’s loving invitation cannot experience the Spirit of truth, the ongoing

presence and revelation of God. The Spirit is first of all a gift from God, but a gift that must be accepted through one's loving, active response to God's word. Contrary to outward appearances, Jesus and the Father will make their home with the disciples (verse 23) in and through the Holy Spirit who will be with them forever.

Though Jesus taught his followers many things throughout his public ministry, they were unable to understand much of what he said because the heart of his truth would be revealed in his death and resurrection. Jesus told his disciples that the role of the Holy Spirit is to "teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you" (verse 26). The Spirit of truth will continue the teaching of Jesus and deepen within his disciples the transforming reality of his dying and rising. The Spirit will enable believers to experience Jesus days, years, or centuries after his earthly life.

The effect of the Spirit's work within believers is a profound sense of peace, well-being, and confidence, the kind of peace that the world cannot give. The *pax Romana* (Roman peace), secured by the emperor Augustus during the lifetime of Jesus, was obtained and maintained by military might. The peace given by Jesus, in contrast, was not obtained by inflicting violence or maintained with force. This peace does not go away even in the midst of life's most difficult struggles (verse 27).

Though the disciples are focused on their own sense of loss due to Jesus' imminent departure, Jesus says, "If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father" (verse 28). Jesus reminds them, as Paul will later agree (Phil 1:23), that being with God is better by far. It is better for Jesus and also for his followers, who will be able to draw on the assistance of both the exalted Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Reflection and discussion

- Jesus spends much of the time at supper preparing his followers for life in the age of the Spirit. What are some of the changes Jesus emphasizes for the church after his departure?

- Jesus told his disciples that “the world” cannot receive the Holy Spirit (verse 17). How do disciples of Jesus receive the Holy Spirit?

- The Spirit of truth brings to light the meaning and significance of the revelation given by Jesus (verse 26). In what ways have I experienced the Holy Spirit teaching me and reminding me as I study the Scriptures?

- What is the difference between the way Jesus and the world give peace (verse 27)? How do I experience the peace that Jesus leaves with me?

Prayer

Glorified Christ, you promised to give me peace when I am troubled and afraid. Send me your Spirit of truth to live in me always. Guide me as I read your gospel, and continue your revealing work within me.