

## Another Comforter is with Us

5/14/2023

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*“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. <sup>16</sup> And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. <sup>17</sup> This 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. <sup>18</sup> “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. <sup>19</sup> In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. <sup>20</sup> On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. <sup>21</sup> They 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.” (John 14:15-21).*

### 1. A Mom Shielded Her Son

Last week, eight people were killed at a mall in Allen, Texas. Among the survivors, one five-year-old boy survived the shooting. A witness said the boy was covered from head to toe with blood. His mother had shielded this boy from the bullets, but she was killed in the process.

This image reflects the extent to which mother’s will go to protect their children. Today is Mother’s Day. When we think of mothers, we are amazed by their unlimited love for their children. Most of us miss such wonderful mothers.

But have you ever thought that there is somebody who loves us more than our mothers do? Today’s scripture tells us that there is someone that does even more than our mothers love us.

### 2. Another Advocate

In verse 16, Jesus says to the disciples, ***“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.”*** What does “Another Advocate” mean? Advocate is “*parakletos*” in the Greek language. This term is used five times in the New Testament - four in John’s Gospel (14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7) and once in 1 John 2:1. In John’s Gospel, it refers to the Holy Spirit and in 1 John, to Jesus. It is very interesting to notice that the writer of 1 John calls Jesus an advocate.

The word “*Parakletos*” comes from two components, “*para*” (meaning side) and “*kletos*” (meaning called). The components combined mean “to be called to one’s side.” The image is something like a lawyer, who comes to the aid of a person or a witness who testifies on someone’s behalf.

This advocate gives another comfort, counsel, help, and encouragement. When Jesus says this to the disciples, he tells them that they will have one that will come to help them in their time of need.

Why does Jesus talk about a helper? It is because Jesus is about to die on the cross and leave the disciples. Jesus wants another comforter to be with the disciples. In verse 18, Jesus promises that he will not leave the disciples orphaned. Acts chapter 2 tells us that Jesus' promise is fulfilled through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

### 3. The Coming of the Holy Spirit

What happened to the disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them. Acts Chapter 2 tells us that the people began speaking of the good news of Jesus in many different languages. These were not their native languages, and the disciples did not learn these languages before. Between the death of Jesus and Pentecost, the disciples were hiding out of fear. When the Holy Spirit came on the disciples at Pentecost, all their fear disappeared, and the disciples were emboldened to share the resurrection of Jesus. Peter preached his first sermon in confidence and boldness.

This change impacted not only the disciples but also the first Christian community. Acts 2:44 says, "**All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.**"

The followers of Jesus recognized each other as brothers and sisters in God's family. They shared all that they had and benefitted from the property of others. Each Christian shared the unexpected love of Jesus with one another. How was this possible?

This was possible because of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was with each believer and the Christian community was filled with the love of Jesus. As Jesus encouraged, comforted, counseled, and helped the people, the Holy Spirit filled the hearts of the believers with the same love of Christ.

### 4. If You Love Me

In John 14:15, Jesus says to the disciples, "**If you love me, you will keep my commandments.**" Why does Jesus talk about love? It is because Jesus knows that the disciples love him, and love is the central point of how they can be happy and live a meaningful life. Jesus says that if the disciples really love Jesus, they have to keep his commandments.

What are Jesus' commandments? Jesus says, "**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.**" <sup>38</sup> **This is the greatest and first commandment.** <sup>39</sup> **And a**

***second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’*** (Matthew 22:37-39).

The first commandment is known as the “*Shema*,” taken from the first word “hear” in Hebrew in Deuteronomy 6. The Jews recite the Shema twice a day in the morning and in the evening. The recitation of the commandment is considered one of the most sacred duties. It was also cited by Jesus as the greatest commandment in the law.

What does it mean to “love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and mind?” It means to love the Lord with all our being, both body and soul. If you look to the Bible for examples, I believe Abraham’s sacrifice of Isaac is one of the greatest examples of this love. God’s request to Abraham was nonsense. And yet, Abraham obeyed God, trusting in God’s love for Abraham.

In John 14:31, Jesus says, “***I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.***” Jesus knew God called him to lay down his life for all humanity. Why did Jesus die on the cross? It is because it is a reflection of what Jesus did to love and obey God with all his heart, soul, and mind.

Jesus’ second commandment can be also found in John 15:12 & 13, “***This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.***”

Jesus wants us to practice sacrificial love to one another as he did for us. Where can we find such sacrificial love? We find this kind of love among mothers. But it is not easy for us to practice sacrificial love to others. The Holy Spirit has come to help us to love the Lord with all our heart, mind, and soul and practice sacrificial love to others.

## **5. The Motherly Love of Trinity**

We celebrate and give thanks to our mothers on Mother’s Day. Where do you think a mother’s sacrificial love comes from? A mother’s love is a reflection of God’s love for each of us. Mothers love, comfort, care, and encourage each of us as the Lord does.

Isaiah 66:13 says, “***As a mother comforts her child, I shall comfort you.***” God comforts his people and takes care of them. The Prophet Isaiah highlights that God acts like a mother filled with compassion.

We see this same love in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus fed the hungry, healed the sick, opened the eyes of the blind, and raised the dead to life.

What about the Holy Spirit? In Romans 8:26-27, Paul says, “***Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know***

***how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.”***

The Holy Spirit intercedes for us and guides us in accordance with God’s love and will for each of us. The Holy Spirit loves us as our mothers love us.

## **6. Conclusion**

From the moment we are born until we die, we need the help of others in our lives. In today’s scripture, Jesus tells us that he will ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit to help us. Acts 2:33 tells us, “***Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this (the Holy Spirit) that you see and hear.”***

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise in John 14. The Holy Spirit has come to be with us forever. We have learned that the Holy Spirit is our advocate, and he helps, cares, comforts, and encourages us in every step of our lives. Like the love of mothers, the Holy Spirit comforts and encourages us always.

## **7. Application**

Our mothers will not always be with us on this earth. But the Holy Spirit never leaves us. When Jesus died, rose again, and ascended, the disciples were left alone. When the Holy Spirit came, the disciples were filled with power and boldness. They were able to do greater things, just as Jesus had promised.

We’re often told that AI and advancements in technology will be our ever-present helper. But the Bible tells us that each of us already has an Advocate who provides us comfort, wisdom, and guidance in every moment of our lives. Our Advocate is with us forever. Although we may be physically alone from others, we are never truly alone. We only need to give thanks to the Holy Spirit and spend time with the triune Lord.

Thanks be to God who sent the Holy Spirit to be with us forever.  
Amen.