

“More Words of Comfort”

September 13, 2026

John 14:15-31

I. Introduction

A little boy and his daddy had gone for a walk in a forest. They had watched squirrels and rabbits play. They'd thrown stones into a little stream that they found. With his daddy's help the little boy had even climbed up into a tree—at least into the first couple of branches. They had stayed out quite late—in fact, it started to get dark when they were still in the forest.

Now the noises that had been fun earlier were becoming scary for the little boy as he walked along with his daddy. His daddy kept telling him that the noises couldn't hurt him and that his daddy was there with him. He would protect his little son. But that wasn't enough for the little boy; he needed more than words for reassurance. So, he asked his daddy to hold his hand as they walked along. That physical contact was enough to comfort the little boy. Once again, he was able to laugh and skip along with his daddy with no fear at all as they retraced their steps toward home.

In many ways this is where the disciples were. Jesus had called them **“my children,”** He had said that He was going away and they couldn't come with Him, and they were afraid. ([John 13:33](#)). Jesus had explained that they didn't need to be afraid; they just needed to trust Him and His plans. But, like the little boy, they needed more than that. As the omniscient Creator, as [Luke 11:17](#) says, **“Jesus knew their thoughts.”** So, although He would no longer be visibly present with His disciples, Jesus promised them that they would not be left alone. Jesus gave them and all of His future followers more words of comfort as He gave 3 promises.

II. Three Promises

A. You will have the Holy Spirit. Speaking of the disciples' love for Him, Jesus said, **“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”** Now He was going to demonstrate His love for them. He knew that without the help of the Spirit of God, Christians cannot live the life as God would have them live it. So, Jesus promised to ask the Father to send **“another Counselor—the Holy Spirit.”** This is Jesus' first

promise: “You will have the Holy Spirit.” The word translated “**counselor**” is the Greek word “*parakletos*” (para,klhton). It means “*one called alongside to help.*” The Holy Spirit does not work instead of us, or in spite of us, but in us and through us. As our paraklete the Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter, counselor, intercessor, encourager, and advocate. And Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would be with His disciples **“forever.”**

Jesus also called the Holy Spirit “**the Spirit of truth.**” The Holy Spirit reveals spiritual truth to believers. As the Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit is related to Jesus who is the truth (John 14:6) and to the Word of God which John 17:17 says, “**Is truth.**” In other words, the Holy Spirit is God, turn to Acts 5:1-6. In verse 3 Peter said that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit; in verse 4 Peter said he lied to God. As the Spirit of truth—as God, the Holy Spirit cannot lie or be associated with lies. He can never lead one to do anything contrary to the Word of God, God’s Word is truth.

Jesus told the disciples that the Holy Spirit “**will be in you.**” The Holy Spirit is a gift from the Father in answer to the prayer of the Son. During His earthly ministry, Jesus had guided, guarded, and taught His disciples; now He was going to leave them. The Spirit of God would come to them and dwell in them, taking the place of their Master. Jesus called the Spirit “**another Counselor.**” The Greek word translated “***another***” means “*another of the same kind.*” The Spirit of God is not different from the Son of God, for both are God. The Spirit of God had dwelt with the disciples in the person of Jesus Christ. Now He will dwell *in* each of Jesus’ disciples—then and now.

The world, on the other hand, cannot accept the Holy Spirit because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. Just as the world failed to recognize Jesus, so it fails to recognize the Holy Spirit. Not surprisingly, on the day of Pentecost—the day the Holy Spirit came to fill Christ’s disciples—Acts 2:13 says, “**Some, however, made fun of them and said, ‘They have had too much wine.’**” 1 Cor. 2:14 put it this way, “**The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.**”

Actually, the Spirit of God had been on the earth before Pentecost. He gave men and women of the Old Testament times the power to accomplish God's work. However, during that time, the Spirit of God would come on people and then leave them. For example, because of unconfessed sin, [1 Samuel 16:14](#) says, **"Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul."** Turn to David's prayer after he had committed adultery with Bathsheba, [turn to Psalm 51:1, 9-12](#). Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came and went, but when the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, He was given to God's people to remain with them forever. [Ephesians 4:30](#) says, **"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."** Even though one may sadden and hurt the Holy Spirit, He will not leave. Jesus said He will **"be with you forever."**

People in the world walk by sight and depend on the externals; Christians walk by faith and depend on the eternal. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit **"will teach you all things."** The Holy Spirit teaches and guides but doesn't drag one into the truth. The Holy Spirit also reminds us of what He has taught us so that we can depend on God's Word in the difficult times of life. As Jesus' Disciples, Christians today are not alone, abandoned, helpless, or hopeless. Wherever we go, the Spirit of God is with us, so we shouldn't feel like spiritual orphans. There is no need for a troubled heart when you have the very Spirit of God living in you.

B. You have the Father's love. Jesus then said, **"The one who loves me will be loved by my Father."** This is Jesus' 2nd promise: You have the Father's love. Jesus explained 3 ways that God shares His love with His children. *First, God shares or demonstrates His love through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.* Jesus said, **"Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me."** The disciples were going to see Jesus in His resurrected body—proof that God loved the world and sent His Son to save the world. [John 3:16](#) says, **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** Obviously, believers today haven't seen and touched Jesus after His resurrection, but by faith we know what He did—[turn to 1 Corinthians 15:3-7](#).

The second way the love of God is seen is in our daily lives. Jesus said, **“My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”** When a sinner trusts Jesus Christ, he is born again and the Spirit immediately enters his body and bears witness that he is a child of God. **1 Cor. 6:19** says, **“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.”** As the believer yields to the Father, loves God’s Word, prays, and obeys God, a deep relationship with the Father, Son, and Spirit will develop. Salvation means we are going to heaven, but submission, i.e., obeying Jesus’ teaching, means that heaven comes to us. Like the little boy holding his father’s hand had no fear because of his father’s presence, submissive Christians will have no fear since God is with them.

The third way that the love of God will be seen is when Jesus Christ returns. Earlier in John 14 Jesus had said, **“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.”** **1 Thess. 4:16-17** says, **“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And we will be with the Lord forever.”** One day the Lord Jesus Christ will return for His own and take them to be with Him in heaven; then we will enjoy the love of God in action.

C. You have His gift of peace When Jesus said, **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you,”** He was promising His gift of peace. God’s peace is not like the world’s peace. The world’s peace depends on resources, while God’s peace depends on relationships. To be right with God means one can enjoy the peace of God. In the world, peace is something you hope for, work for, strain for; but for the Christian, peace is God’s wonderful gift, received by faith. The unsaved enjoy peace when there is an absence of trouble; Christians enjoy peace in spite of trials because of the power and peace of the Holy Spirit. True biblical peace doesn’t depend on the circumstances of life but lives above them. **Turn to Philippians 4:6-7.** As one commentator wrote, *“To live in anguish over the past, anxiety concerning the present, or apprehension about the future is to fail to grasp God’s peace.”*

In verse 28 Jesus said, **“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”** Turn to Hebrews 4:14-16. Christians can be at peace since Jesus is the perfect mediator or intercessor for us. We can come before the throne of God—we can pray—in peace because we know that He understands.

When Jesus said, **“The Father is greater than I,”** He wasn’t denying His own deity or His equality with God, for then He would be contradicting Himself—in John 10:30 He said, **“I and the Father are one.”** When Jesus came to earth, Phil. 2:7 says, He **“made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”** Jesus voluntarily laid aside His divine attributes and submitted Himself to the Father. In that sense the Father was greater than the Son. When the Son returned to heaven, all that He had laid aside was restored. In John 17:5 when He prayed just before His arrest, Jesus said, **“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”** Having submitted Himself to the Father in death, Phil. 2:9 says, **“Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name.”**

Back in John, Jesus named two of the Christian’s great spiritual enemies—the world and the devil. 1 John 3:8 says, **“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”** The cross marked Satan’s ultimate defeat—as Hebrews 2:14 says, **“By his death he (i.e. Jesus) might destroy him who holds the power of death-- that is, the devil.”** The devil had no hold, no claim on Jesus, Jesus is not of this world and He has never sinned. Since we are “in Christ” and Christ is in us, Satan cannot get a foothold in a believer’s life, unless we permit it. Neither Satan nor the world can trouble a believer’s heart if he or she is yielded to the “peace of God” through the Holy Spirit.

III. Conclusion

Jesus’ words of comfort to His disciples gathered around that Passover table are words of comfort for all Christians—then and now. We each have the Holy Spirit living inside us to comfort us, to encourage us, to be our defender—our advocate. As Paul wrote in Romans 8:9, **“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the**

Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” But we must do our part and submit to God and as

[Ephesians 5:18](#) says, **“Be filled with the Spirit,”** i.e., we must allow the Holy Spirit to fill us.

Jesus said, **“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”** Jesus also said that the Holy Spirit is our teacher and will remind us of the things that God has taught us. If we are going to obey the Lord’s commands, if we are going to be reminded of what God’s Word says, then we need to study God’s Word; as [2 Timothy 2:15](#) says, **“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”**

Because of God’s amazing love, He sent His Son to die in our place. It would seem that the reasonable response to God’s awesome love would be for every Christian to return that love through doing what would please God by studying His word, allowing the Holy Spirit to move in our hearts and minds, and by doing things that bring God the glory and praise. And if we do that, our relationship with Him will grow stronger and stronger.

Finally, the whole world is looking for peace—peace between nations, peace in an individual’s personal life, peace in life after death. There is only one Source of peace—Jesus said, **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”** Peace *with* God is the beginning of peace. As one hymn puts it, *“If you want peace, real peace, wonderful peace; let Jesus come into your heart.”* [Romans 5:1](#) says, **“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”** When we have peace with God, then we can have the peace of God—**“The peace that guards hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.”** This peace of God protects believers from anxiety, doubt, fear, and distress. This peace is one of the fruits of the Spirit ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)). It is our part to allow this fruit to grow as we yield to the Lordship of Jesus Christ and walk as He would have us walk and then we will have the peace of God.

Solomon summarized this in [Proverbs 3:5-6](#): **“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.”** Or as Jesus said in [John 14:1](#), **“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.”**