

“You Need Help, and Lots of It!”

John 16:5-15

I guess most of us would disagree with the claim of Jesus, “Hey, you guys need help, and lots of it!” We tend to think we’re strong enough, smart enough, and clever enough to solve our own problems and make our way through life.

In today’s Bible*=(passage Jesus explains why you DO need help, and how that help can come to you.

A. Why we need the Holy Spirit.

John 16:5-7, ⁵“But now I am going away to the One who sent me, and not one of you is asking where I am going.

⁶Instead, you grieve because of what I’ve told you.

⁷But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don’t, the Advocate won’t come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you.

The fundamental reason we need faith, and the Holy Spirit, is to help us navigate loss ... grief creates need in our lives that the Holy Spirit can meet.

The kinds of loss the disciples have that we all experience:

1. Lose control over our future. The “ouch” of life stings because we realize we can’t control “tomorrow.” Jesus was leaving them, and they were feeling loss.
2. Lost the immediate presence of Jesus. No longer did they have Jesus with them immediately for answers. I remember when my mother died, I thought, “who am I going to call to ask about olive oil now?”
3. Loss of the “good” for the “better.” They were losing Jesus, but gaining the Holy Spirit, and they didn’t yet know how that could possibly be “better.”

B. How does the Holy Spirit help us?

John 16:8-11, And when he comes, he will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.

⁹The world’s sin is that it refuses to believe in me.

¹⁰Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more.

¹¹Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged.

1. The Holy Spirit shows us how empty we are. (He convicts sin.)
2. The Holy Spirit shows us how full we can become. (He leads us to righteousness.)
3. The Holy Spirit shows us how to keep score. (He's already judged the world.)

C. How does the Holy Spirit enable us to help ourselves?

Good news! A growing faith does enable us to help ourselves, how?

John 16:12-15, "There is so much more I want to tell you, but you can't bear it now.

¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.

¹⁴ He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.

¹⁵ All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, 'The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.'

1. The Holy Spirit will guide you into truth. Then, it's up to us to live by that truth. The Holy Spirit trains us, but we need to DO it.
2. The Holy Spirit will make Jesus clear to you (by bringing Him glory). Then, it's up to us to give Jesus glory too, and make Him clear to others also.
3. The Holy Spirit will connect us to the riches of Heaven. The Holy Spirit is the tool God uses to graft us into His riches. The Holy Spirit is the "updated operating system" that cleans up the glitches, hang-ups, and missing parts of our life.

MAIN POINT: The Holy Spirit is God's answer to the need and loss we experience in life.

A closing prayer ... "Dear God, we need You. Fill our emptiness and sustain us in time of loss. Teach us. Guide us. Enable us to connect to Your abundance. In Jesus' name, amen."