



Text: John 16:5-15¹

Series: *Life in His Name* – The Message of John’s Gospel

Title: Part 33 – How does the Helper Help?

Date: October 2, 2011

Place: First Baptist Church, Olds, AB

Do you need help? Let me tell you a story. Kyle Idleman, a pastor in the United States wrote...

When I started a new church in Los Angeles County, California, I found that I was overwhelmed with pressure and stress. I was working more than seventy hours a week. My wife would ask me to take a day off, and I would say, "I can't." I wasn't sleeping at night, and I started to take sleeping pills. When the church was about a year old, I woke up in the night, and I had this strange sense that God was laughing at me. As I lay in bed, I wondered, Why is God laughing at me?

It would take five years before I finally got an answer to that question. Here's how it happened: when we moved into our current house, I saved the heaviest piece of furniture for last—the desk from my office. As I was pushing and pulling the desk with all my might, my four-year-old son came over and asked if he could help. So together we started sliding it across the floor. He was pushing and grunting as we inched our way along. After a few minutes, my son stopped pushing, looked up at me, and said, "Dad, you're in my way." And then he tried to push the desk by himself. Of course it didn't budge. Then I realized that he thought he was actually doing all the work, instead of me. I couldn't help but laugh.

The moment I started laughing at my son's comment, I recalled that middle-of-the-night incident and I realized why God was laughing at me. I thought I was pushing the desk. I know that's ridiculous, but instead of recognizing God's power and strength, I started to think it all depended on me.

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Brothers and sisters, we need help ... and we've got it! I'm reading this morning from John's Gospel, chapter sixteen, verses 4 to 15. [p. 902]

Jesus said...

⁴ "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me,

¹ Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Used by permission, All rights reserved.



‘Where are you going?’⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.⁷ Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

⁸ And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:⁹ concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;¹⁰ concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;¹¹ concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² “I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.¹³ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.¹⁴ He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.¹⁵ All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.

Jesus says that we need the Helper John 16:4-7

“Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.” John 16:7

Why is the Holy Spirit called “the Helper”?

Cf. *paracletos* -- only used in John (John 14, 15 & 16 & 1 John 2)

– lit. “One called alongside” BUT in John’s use, the Helper isn’t “called” he is “sent”

- Classical Greek background of legal assistance / **“Advocate”** (NIV)

- “advocate” works in John 16:8-11 & in 1 John 2:1

“My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” 1 John 2:1

BUT the legal metaphor doesn’t fully capture the use of *paracletos* by John

Cf. John 14:15-17, 26 – the Helper will assist believers to “keep [Jesus’] commandments” by teaching them and bringing to remembrance what Christ had said.



“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.” John 14:26

The Helper helps us to remember Jesus’ Word & obey it

Cf. John 15:26-27 – the Helper will assist believers in their witness for Christ

“But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me. And you also will bear witness...” John 15:26-27

The Helper helps us to witness for Jesus

Cf. John **16:12-15** – the Helper will **guide and teach** believers

“**Helper**” encompasses all that the Holy Spirit does for us, including his role as Advocate

Cf. KJV “**Comforter**” – drawn from William Tyndale’s translation of the Bible BUT “comforter” comes from “con – fortis” – with strength – ie. not to commiserate & console but **to strengthen us!**

The “Helper” is not God’s “Back Up Quarterback”

- the “back up” QB only plays when the “real” QB is out of the game

BUT Jesus is also called “Helper” (John 14:16)

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him.” John 14:15-17

- the Holy Spirit is “another Helper” (cf 1 John 2:1)

- the Holy Spirit with us is Jesus with us – He is the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise when he said “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)

Why does Jesus have to go so that the Helper can come?

- in order for the Spirit to be sent Jesus must
 - 1) die on the cross
 - 2) rise from the dead



- 3) ascend to the Father
- 4) be seated at the Father's right hand

NB. **“whom I will send to you from the Father” John 15:26**

- it isn't that the Spirit & Jesus can't exist minister at the same time – in fact, Jesus IS present in the presence of the Holy Spirit!

“You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” Romans 8:9

The Spirit

The Spirit of God (Father)

The Spirit of Christ

NB. The Triune God is present with us in the ministry of the Helper!

**What “advantage” (lit. “profit”) does the Helper bring us?
How does the Helper help us?**

- 1) The Helper helps us in our mission to the world
- 2) The Helper helps us in our relationship with God

The Helper & Our Mission to the World John 16:8-11

One word defines the relationship of the Helper to the world...

“convict”

“And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:” John 16:8

“convict” ... In the New Testament it “almost always means ‘to show someone his sin and to summon him to repentance.’ ”²

According to Bible scholar, Merrill Tenney...

“The word is a legal term that means to pronounce a judicial verdict by which the guilt of the culprit at the bar of justice is defined and fixed. The Spirit does not merely accuse men of sin, he brings to them an inescapable

² Borchert, G. L. (2003). *Vol. 25B: John 12-21* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (165). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.



sense of guilt so that they realize their shame and helplessness before God ... The Spirit is the prosecuting attorney who presents God's case against humanity. He creates an inescapable awareness of sin so that it cannot be dismissed with an excuse or evaded by taking refuge in the fact that "everybody is doing it." The Spirit's function is like that of Nathan the prophet, who said to David, "You are the man" (2 Sam 12:7), and compelled him to acknowledge his misdeeds. David was so convicted that he was reduced to a state of complete penitence: "Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight" (Ps 51:4).³

Helmut Thieliecke, one of the leading theologians of the 20th Century said that responsibility of the preacher to those who seek truth is to "leave them under no illusions about the existence of a steep wall at which decisions must be made." The seeker for truth, he said, "must be led to face the granite greatness of a message that brooks no evasion."

The Helper works through the declaration of God's Word by preachers and non-preachers alike to bring people to the place of ultimate decision where they must answer **one question**:

Will you continue in rebellion against God or will you turn in repentance toward Him?

The Helper convicts the world concerning sin ... because they have it!

"concerning sin, because they do not believe in me;" John 16:9

The essence of sin ... unbelief in Jesus Christ, God's Saviour for a sinful world.

Jesus said...

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God." John 3:16-18

Cf. the Holy Spirit's work on the Day of Pentecost

Peter preaches to the very people who only weeks before had called for the crucifixion of Jesus...

³ Tenney, M. C. (1981). John. In F. E. Gaebelin (Ed.), *The Expositor's Bible Commentary, Volume 9: John and Acts* (F. E. Gaebelin, Ed.) (157). Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House.



“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know—this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.” Acts 2:22-24

- Peter, strengthened by the power of the Helper, drove home the “conviction” of the Gospel...

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:37-38

- 3000 people believed in Jesus Christ

The Helper convicts the world concerning righteousness ... because they don't have it!

“concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer;” John 16:10

The Helper works to bring people to see Jesus as the Only One who meets God's standard of righteousness

- Jesus is the light that exposes our darkness...

“And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed.” John 3:19-20

The Helper shows us that compared to Jesus, as the prophet Isaiah wrote...

“We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.” Isaiah 64:6

Kent Hughes wrote...



“Unworthiness is the driving awareness of the man or woman who is in the process of grace. Only the Holy Spirit can bring this awareness.”⁴

Cf. sharing the Gospel with a man struggling with seeing himself as a sinner
- I told him: Your problem is that you’re comparing yourself to me! You come off pretty good!
- But what you need to do is compare yourself to Jesus ... and we both fail to even register a blip on the “goodness” scale!

The Helper convicts the world of judgment ... because it’s coming!

“concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.” John 16:11

Jesus is speaking of his death on the cross and his resurrection from the dead as a “done deal”

“is judged” is perfect passive (ie. “has been judged/condemned” (NASB/NRSV)

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Jesus chose to become a man to die for us on the cross and to rise again from the dead...

“that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil” Hebrews 2:14

Even before his cross and resurrection, Jesus speaks of its effect on Satan with supreme confidence – the ruler of this world, Satan, IS judged. If judgment is certain for “the ruler of this world,” then it is equally certain for the citizens of this “world.”

Death has no power of judgment over those who believe in Jesus but ...

“whoever does not believe is condemned already [cf “is judged], because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” John 3:18

Let me share with you a story of the Helper’s convicting work in action...

In his book *Being the Body*, Charles Colson writes about meeting a businessman whom he calls Mr. Abercrombie. Mr. Abercrombie had invited Colson to speak at a Bible study he hosted. Nineteen other movers and shakers of the business world were in attendance. Colson writes about what transpired:

⁴ Hughes, R. K. (1999). *John : That you may believe*. Preaching the Word (379–380). Wheaton, Ill.: Crossway Books.



Mr. Abercrombie had asked me to speak at the luncheon and then allow time for questions. Somewhere in my talk I referred to our sinful nature. Actually, "total depravity" was the phrase I used. I noticed at the time that a few individuals shifted uncomfortably in their leather chairs, and, sure enough, it must have hit the mark. Because after I finished, the first question was on sin.

"You don't really believe we are sinners, do you? I mean, you're too sophisticated to be one of those hellfire-and-brimstone fellows," one older gentleman said, eyeing my dark blue pinstripe suit just like his. "Intelligent people don't go for that back-country preacher stuff," he added.

"Yes, sir," I replied. "I believe we are desperately sinful. What's inside of each of us is really pretty ugly. In fact we deserve hell and would get it, but for the sacrifice of Christ for our sins."

Mr. Abercrombie himself looked distressed by now. "Well, I don't know about that," he said. "I'm a good person and have been all my life. I go to church, and I get exhausted spending all my time doing good works."

The room seemed particularly quiet, and twenty pairs of eyes were trained on me.

"If you believe that, Mr. Abercrombie—and I hate to say this, for you certainly won't invite me back—you are, for all of your good works, further away from the kingdom than the people I work with in prison who are aware of their own sins." Someone at the other end of the table coughed. Another rattled his coffee cup. And a flush quickly worked its way up from beneath Mr. Abercrombie's starched white collar.

"In fact, gentlemen," I added, drawing on a favorite R. C. Sproul shocker, "If you think about it, we are all really more like Adolf Hitler than like Jesus Christ."

Now there was stony silence...until someone eased the pain and changed the subject.

When lunch ended and I was preparing to leave, Mr. Abercrombie took my arm. "Didn't you say you wanted to make a phone call when we were finished?"

I started to say it wasn't necessary, then realized he wanted to get me alone.

"Yes, thank you," I said.



He led me down the corridor to an empty office. As soon as we were inside, he said bluntly, "I don't have what you have."

"I know," I replied, "but you can. God is touching your heart right now."

"No, no," he took a step back. "Maybe sometime."

I pressed a bit more, however, and moments later we were both on our knees. Mr. Abercrombie asked forgiveness of his sins and turned his life over to Christ.

Colson concludes: "Martin Luther was right. The ultimate proof of the sinner is that he doesn't know his own sin. Our job is to make him see it."

© 2011 PreachingToday.com Charles Colson and Ellen Vaughn, *Being the Body* (Nelson, 2003), pp. 190-191; submitted by Lee Eclov, Vernon Hills, Illinois

Actually, it's not our job, **it's the Helper's job**, working through our witness about Jesus, to make people who don't believe in Jesus see their sin and their need of a Saviour.

- Without the Helper, our mission to the world would not just difficult, it would be impossible!

And once we see our need of a Saviour and believe in Jesus, **the Helper's work takes on a whole new dynamic!**

The Helper & our relationship with God John 16:12-15

Cf. Notice the verbs in the passage

Re the Helper and the world there is only one verb: "**convict**" (v.8)

Re the Helper and believers ... the work of the Helper expands!

"he will guide you into all the truth..." John 16:13

Not just "truth in general" – but "**the truth**": c.f. Jesus who called himself "the way, and **the truth** and the life" John 14:6

The Helper guides us to know Jesus more & more

Cf. Acts 8:31 – an official of the Ethiopian royal court had been in Jerusalem and had heard the preaching about Jesus

- on his way home, he was mulling over the Scriptures but needed someone to guide him



- the Holy Spirit brought Philip alongside this man's chariot as he was reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked him...

“Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” Acts 8:30-31

The passage from Isaiah that the official was reading was this...

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter and like a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” Acts 8:32-33 (quoting Isaiah 53:7-8)

The official asked Philip...

“About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus.” Acts 8:34-35

NB. The Helper will use your witness about Jesus to “guide” people to faith in Him.

“for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak and he will declare to you the things that are to come.” John 16:13

The Helper faithfully speaks the truth about Jesus to us

- He gives accurate and complete insight into the death, resurrection, reign & return of Jesus Christ

“This was a promise to the apostles that their partial understanding of the person and work of Jesus as the Messiah would be completed as the Spirit would give them insight into the meanings of the ... Cross and the Resurrection as well as truths about Jesus’ return (cf. 1 Cor. 2:10). The New Testament books are the fulfillment of this teaching ministry of the Spirit.”⁵

Cf. Peter who wrote...

“no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” 2 Peter 1:21

⁵ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Jn 16:12–13). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.



- Jesus is assuring his disciples that...

“The Father would tell the Spirit what to teach the apostles about the Son.”⁶

The Bible we hold in our hands is the Helper’s faithful account of the Father’s testimony about the Son

AND as we share it’s truth, the Helper continues to speak into his faithful testimony into our hearts and into the hearts of those who are being drawn by the Father to believe in the Son

Finally,

“He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” John 16:14

The Helper glorifies Jesus & His Cross, not Himself

The Helper doesn’t point us to himself; he points us to Jesus! He keeps our eyes on Jesus.

NB. The word “glorify” in John’s Gospel often points us to the Cross

“The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” John 12:23

“Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you” John 17:1

- the Helper will point people to the Cross of Jesus Christ
- the Helper will make the Cross of Christ glorious!

“But far be it from me to boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ” Galatians 6:14

On a recent road trip, [a man] stopped at a McDonald's drive-thru for lunch. After placing [his] order, [he] came to the drive-up window to pay. [He] noticed an attractive, hand-carved cross hanging from the woman's neck, so [he] commented, "I like your cross."

⁶ Walvoord, J. F., Zuck, R. B., & Dallas Theological Seminary. (1983-). *The Bible knowledge commentary : An exposition of the scriptures* (Jn 16:12–13). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.



Her reply was a lesson to me in how [the Helper makes the cross of Christ glorious in the eyes of those who believe.] She said: "Thank you. And I like the person who died on it for my sins. And I love the person who rose from the grave after having died on the cross."

The man wrote...

"She easily could have left it at "Thank you." But her faithful witness touched me and drew me even closer to the Lord that day."

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- **Invitation to remember the Cross of Jesus Christ**
- **Songs of Communion:**
 - Behold the Lamb
 - I Will Sing of My Redeemer
- **Benediction**