

God's Other Gift to You

Word

Scripture Reference

John 14:15-31

Discussion Questions

1. What is the best gift you have received in your life so far?
2. Our Heavenly Father has given us the best gift ever in the person of His Son Jesus Christ. Jesus is called the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. But Jesus is not the only one God wants to give us. There's yet another gift. In John 14 to 17, we have what is called the Upper Room Discourse, Jesus' last teachings before He goes to the cross and dies for the sins of mankind. When Jesus began to talk to His disciples about His going away, they began to worry. Why do you think that the disciples were worried that Jesus was going away? How would you feel when someone you love and close with would go and live somewhere else or that someone dies?
3. The thought of Jesus leaving was pretty disturbing to the disciples, so Jesus set to reassure them. John 14 begins with these words: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in Me."* Then Jesus goes on to deal with their concerns about the loss of His daily presence with them. What did Jesus promise them on verse 14:15-18? Discuss who is the Holy Spirit. In what way is the Holy Spirit an "advocate" or Counselor, Comforter, or Helper? Share with the group an experience when the Holy Spirit ministered to you as your advocate.
4. The ongoing work of the Spirit is a continuation of the work of Jesus; it is an eternal commitment to always be with you. The Holy Spirit is not fickle in His commitment (v. 17). There are two specific ministries that the Holy Spirit does:
 - a. ***The Holy Spirit guides and points you to Jesus (v. 19-25).*** His ministry is not to point to himself, but primarily to glorify Christ (John 16:14). The Holy Spirit will not speak of Himself, but of Jesus. Any emphasis upon the person and work of the Spirit that distracts

you from the Lord Jesus Christ is not the Spirit working. In fact, it is the work of another spirit, the spirit of the antichrist, whose work is to turn you away from Jesus. Cite examples of how the spirit of the antichrist distracts you to focus on Jesus Christ. How does the Holy Spirit help you to remain focused on Jesus in spite of distractions from your spiritual enemy? How would you know that it is the Holy Spirit who is truly guiding you in your life?

- b. ***The Holy Spirit reminds and teaches you the Words of Jesus (v. 26-28).*** One of the Holy Spirit's roles is to teach. To "remember" in the passage's context is to bring to mind the Words of Jesus and teach it to others. The apostles remembered and recorded Jesus' teachings in what has become the New Testament. But these words apply also to Christians who are living today. The Holy Spirit teaches you as well, and brings these things to your remembrance. How does the Holy Spirit teach you of the things of God? Share an experience wherein the guidance of the Holy Spirit helped you understand what you were reading from the Word of God. What is the peace that Jesus provides for you? How can you experience it?

Walk

At the most crucial time when Jesus was about to leave the disciples, the Holy Spirit was the One who took care of them, strengthened them, and led them in the way they should go. What exactly is the ministry of the Holy Spirit? What does He do? First, He guides and points us to the person of Jesus. Secondly, He reminds and teaches us the words of Jesus. Do you think you would make it through life without the Holy Spirit to strengthen you, encourage you, lead you, and guide you? Are you able to live righteously without the abiding help of the Holy Spirit? Just as surely as the Holy Spirit has been sent to those disciples, He has been sent to you as well. He is what you need.

Worship & Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending the Holy Spirit to point me to my Lord Jesus Christ and to help me understand His teachings and His words. I acknowledge that without the Holy Spirit in my life it would be difficult for me to be strong and encouraged daily. It would be difficult for me to walk in the right path and seek Your will. It is the Holy Spirit who leads and guides. He is what I need in my life to remain focused on Jesus and His Words, to love Him and keep His commands. May the Spirit of God convict me of my wrongdoing and help me to overcome them so that I can walk with You with a pure heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.