

## Sermon Discussion

### 29 November 2020

Read John 14 together.

#### Dig Deeper

The Greek word translated “Helper” or “Counselor” is *parakletos*. Both of these English words have connotations that are absent from the Greek word. Helper connotes an inferior, which the Holy Spirit is not. Counselor can call to mind a camp counselor or a marriage counselor whereas a legal counselor is more in harmony with the Greek idea. In secular contexts *parakletos* often referred to a legal assistant, an advocate, or simply a helper (e.g., a witness or a representative in court).

The Spirit of God had come on Old Testament believers temporarily to give them strength, but normally He did not remain with them (see Ps. 51:11). What Jesus spoke of here was an abiding relationship in which the Spirit remained with believers for the rest of their lives. This new relationship to the Holy Spirit is one of the distinctive differences between the church age and previous times.

1. The season of Advent is about the expectation and anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah. How do you prepare yourself for God’s arrival each day? Is there a habit that helps you anticipate and expect His work in your life?
2. Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would come from unlikely places: as a child, from Galilee. Where does most of our culture seek wise counsel from today? Why do think they so often do not look to Jesus as their Wonderful Counselor?
3. What are some practical benefits of the truth that as the Wonderful Counselor Jesus is present with us and in us?
4. What does it mean to walk by the Spirit (Galatians 5:16)? Is it the same or different than being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)? What are the results in each context?
5. As the Wonderful Counselor, Jesus offers incomparable guidance, Are you unable to follow Jesus’ counsel because you invite opposing advisers? Does life get in disarray because you don’t know Jesus’ will or because you have refused to follow it?

#### Application & Prayer

- The Holy Spirit is described as our “paraclete” (called alongside). When do you most feel God’s presence alongside you? What can you do to nurture that relationship?
- What is one thing God seems to be asking you to do in response to this passage? Who can you tell about this “I will” statement in the next 48 hours?