

The Sound of *Many Waters*

Many Waters is a weekly article written by Ron Cipic, lead pastor of Grand River Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. To comment or ask a question about this piece, write to Pastor Ron at pastors@grandriverchurch.org. Related Scripture verses for further study are cited at the end of this piece.

The Helper

"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you...the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, he will teach you all things, and bring to remembrance all that I said to you...When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me..." ~ Jesus

The single most important key to living the Christian life is to know you can't possibly do it alone. Independence is death. So you were saved from the "independent" life when you were born again by the Spirit of God. Independence is the root cause of sin. Independence is believing you can live the good life apart from God who is the only source of good. Living independently is living like a poor, fatherless orphan. No, the true Christian life is a life of total dependence on God.

God didn't save you and then say, "Get about the business of acting like it and proving yourself." If you listen to a lot of Sunday sermons, even if they are preached out of New Testament Scripture, they are filled with exhortations and admonishment as to what you need to do to be a good Christian. But the "good news" is God did it,

so you don't have to try to do it. And not only did He do it, He continues to do it by living in the true believer. God saved us from sin and continues to save us from sin by inhabiting us with His Spirit. This Holy Spirit is holy. Holiness Himself lives in the true Christian. He is the Helper.

It is by the Spirit of Christ that Jesus lives in and through His church. His church is to be an "abiding" church not a "striving" church. The Spirit of truth alone reveals reality to us. He wrote the Bible; therefore, He is most qualified to interpret it and apply it for us. Moreover, He can reveal the truth to us in many other ways as well. And, of course, anything He truly reveals to us will be wholly consistent with what He wrote.

Jesus promised that the Helper will be with us forever. He will not leave us as "orphans." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of adoption. He together with our own spirit bear witness that we are "sons of God. We have been purchased out of slavery by the blood of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit makes our adoption a reality. We cannot feel we belong to God without the help of the Holy Spirit. It is His job to assure us, to remind us that we are co-heirs with Christ.

The Cross of Christ has set us free from sin and the law. The Holy Spirit is assigned to us to make this a moment-by-moment reality. We are not called to live by the rules. We are called to walk with the Holy Spirit. As He leads us through life every step of the way, He shows us where to step and where not to step. He reveals the truth that sets us free from the lies of Satan. It is impossible to live The Life without the help of the Holy Spirit. But He's glad to help. It's more than a job. It's who He is. *RC*

Study Verses: Jn. 14:16, 25; Jn. 15:26; Jn. 16:13

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