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The Promise of a Comforter

Definitions in **bold letters** are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance
Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition
or Roget's Thesaurus – **March 8, 2015**

John 14:15-26

Introduction: Christ comforts his disciples, on the event of his removal from them, by the consideration of his going to prepare a place for them in heaven, 1-4. Thomas questions him concerning the way to the Father, and is answered, 5-7. Philip proposes a difficulty, and Christ shows that he and the Father are one; that he is Mediator between God and man; and that whatsoever is asked in his name shall be obtained, 8-14. He promises them the **Holy Spirit** as the **Comforter** and **Spirit of truth**, 15-18. Shows them that he is shortly to leave them, and that those who love him should be loved of the Father, 19-21. Jude asks a question, how Christ is to manifest himself to the disciples, and not to the Jews? 22. Christ answers, and shows that the manifestation is to be made to those who love God, and to them the **Holy Spirit** is to be an **infallible teacher**, 23-26. He bequeaths his peace to them, and fortifies them against discouragements, 27-29. Foretells his approaching death, 30, 31.
(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

John 14:15, If ye **LOVE** me, keep my commandments.

Love, agapao, defined 25, to love (in a SOCIAL or MORAL sense).

SOCIAL, relating to men (people) living in society; as social interests or concerns; social pleasures; social happiness; social **DUTIES**. True self-love and social are the same. MORAL, In general, moral denotes something which respects the conduct of men (people) and their relations as social beings whose actions have a bearing on each other's RIGHTS and HAPPINESS, and are therefore right or wrong, virtuous or vicious; as moral views; moral justice; moral **OBLIGATIONS**.

Thought 1. From the definition of "love", we see that Christ actually said, "If you have "social interest and concerns" toward me, which includes "social duties" toward me, and a "moral view" that controls your conduct toward me and my "RIGHTS" to meet your "moral obligations", KEEP my commandments.

Another consideration is Jesus wouldn't ask them, and us, to do something that can't be done. But, unless we believe that's true, we'll believe it can't be done.

Psalm 111:10, The **fear (reverence)** of the Lord is the BEGINNING of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that DO his commandments...

Proverbs 14:2, He that walketh in his uprightness (conformity to rectitude and justice in SOCIAL dealings) **FEARETH (reverence)** the Lord: but he that is **perverse (to turn aside)** in his ways **DESPISES** him.

Despiseth defined 959, to disesteem (to slight [neglect: forbear { stop, PAUSE, refuse} to treat with RESPECT])

1 John 5:3, For this is the **love** of God, that **WE** keep his commandments: and his **commandments** are **not grievous** (**burdensome, heavy**).

NOTE: I. He premises to this a memento of **DUTY** (John 14:15): If you love me, keep my commandments. Keeping the commandments of Christ is here put for the practice of **godliness** in general, and for the faithful and diligent discharge of their office as apostles in particular. Now observe, 1. When Christ is **comforting** them, he bids them keep his commandments; for we must not expect comfort but in the way of DUTY. The same word (*parakaleo*) signifies both to exhort and to comfort. 2. When they were in care what they should do, now that their Master was leaving them, and what would become of them now, he bids them keep his commandments, and then nothing could come amiss to them. In difficult times our care concerning the events of the day should be swallowed up in a **care** concerning the **duty** of the day.

...Follow the **CONDUCT** of the Spirit, and you shall have the **COMFORT** of the Spirit. (Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible classic.studylight.org/com/mhc*)

John 14:16, And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that **HE** may ABIDE with you **FOR EVER...**

Comforter defined 3875, *parakletos* *par-ak'-lay-tos* an intercessor, consoler--advocate.

NOTE: After having made an **atonement** for the **sin** of the world, I will become the *Mediator* between God and man; and through my *mediation* and *intercession* shall all the blessings of grace and glory be acquired. **Another Comforter** The word , signifies not only a *comforter*, but also an *advocate*, a *defender* of a cause, a *counsellor*, *patron*, *mediator*. Christ is thus termed, 1 John 2:1, where the common translation renders the word *advocate*. Christ is thus called, because he is represented as *transacting* the *concerns* of our souls with God; and for this cause, he tells us, he goes unto the Father, John 14:12. The Holy Spirit is thus called, because **he transacts** the **cause** of God and Christ **with us**, *explains* to us the nature and importance of the great atonement, shows the necessity of it, *counsels* us to receive it, *instructs* us how to lay hold on it, *vindicates* our claim to it, and **makes intercessions** **IN us** with **unutterable groanings**. As Christ acted with his disciples while he sojourned with them, so the Holy Ghost acts with those who **BELIEVE** in his name. **For ever** As the death and atonement of Christ will be necessary to man till the conclusion of the world, so the office of the Holy Spirit must be continued among men till the end of time: therefore says Christ, *he shall continue with you for ever*, teaching, comforting, advising, defending, and interceding for you and for all my followers to the end of time. (Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/*)

Thought 1. Some Christians think Jesus' words about the Holy Spirit dwelling with his disciples "forever" means "Once saved, always saved," But, there are other scriptures that make plain that HE, not IT, (the Spirit) dwells with "believers" as long as they are "believers" in Jesus, trusting him for (salvation) their spiritual well-being. So, if a person who believes in Jesus departs from him through the sin of UNBELIEF, the Holy Spirit does not live in their spirit any longer. But, they are again "spiritually dead", and their names are erased from the Book of Life.

Luke 8:13, They on the **rock** are they, which, when they hear, **receive** the **word** with joy; and these have no root, which **for a WHILE believe**, and in time of **temptation (experience of evil) fall away (desert** [leave permanently], **DEPART**).

1 Timothy 4:1, Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times **SOME** shall DEPART from **the faith**,

giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils...

Hebrews 3:12-13, Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an **evil** heart of UNBELIEF, in **departing from** the living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you **be hardened** through the deceitfulness of **sin**.

Hebrews 6:4-6, For it is **impossible** for those who were once **enlightened**, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made **partakers** of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, IF they shall **FALL AWAY**, to renew them again unto **repentance**; seeing they **crucify** to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 10:26-29, For if we **sin willfully AFTER** that we have **received** the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of **judgment** and **fiery indignation**, which shall devour the adversaries. He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted **the blood** of the covenant, wherewith **he WAS sanctified**, an unholy thing, and hath done **despite** (disrespect) unto the SPIRIT of GRACE?

Romans 11:18-22, Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were **broken off**, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of **unbelief** they were broken off, and thou **standest** by **FAITH**. Be not highminded, but FEAR: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the **goodness** and **SEVERITY** (harshness, strictness) of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, IF thou **CONTINUE** in his goodness: **otherwise** thou also shalt be **CUT OFF**.

Faith defined 4102, pistis pronounced pis'-tis, moral conviction (of religious truth), especially RELIANCE upon Christ for salvation; abstractly, CONSTANCY in such profession.

2 Thessalonians 2:3, Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a **FALLING AWAY** first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition...

Falling Away defined 646. apostasia pronounced ap-os-tas-ee'-ah; defection from truth ("apostasy" an abandonment of what one has professed; a total desertion, or DEPARTURE from one's FAITH or religion.).

Revelation 3:5, He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not **blot out (erase)** his **name OUT of the BOOK of LIFE**, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Revelation 20:15, And whosoever was not found written in the **book of life** was cast into the **LAKE of fire**.

NOTE: Certainly, Christians have their names written there during their sojourn as Christians upon the earth (Phil. 4:3); and it is most logical to believe that it is written at the very **beginning** of that Christian life. Once inscribed in the book of life, one's name will remain there eternally, **except** in the case of his **apostasy**, in which event it will be "blotted out" (Revelation 3:5). (Source: Coffman Commentaries on the Old & New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bcc/)

John 14:17, Even the **Spirit of truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not,

neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you.

NOTE: The Spirit of truth. He is thus called here because he would **teach** them the **truth**, or would **guide them** into **all truth**, John 16:13. He would keep them from all error, and teach them the truth, which, either by writing or preaching, they were to communicate to others. (Source: Barnes' Notes on the New Testament classic.studylight.org/com/bnn/)

Thought 1. Because of Adam's sin, all humans used by God before Jesus die and rose again, had the Spirit WITH them, but not in them. He'd come upon them and influence (empower) them to do God's will. Even the verses in the KJV that were translated saying the Spirit was "IN" a person, really should've said "UPON or WITH" the person.

Daniel 5:14, I have even heard of thee, that the **spirit** of the gods is **IN (UPON)** thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee.

1 Peter 1:10-11, Of which salvation the **prophets** have enquired and searched diligently, who **prophesied** of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was **IN (WITH)** them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

Thought 2. But, after Jesus' resurrection, when a person believes on Jesus, the Holy Spirit immediately baptizes (washes) them completely clean of their old nature from Satan, called the "flesh" and indwells them, in their spirit.

Romans 8:8-9, So then **they** that are **IN the flesh** cannot please God. But **YE** are NOT in the **flesh** but **IN the Spirit**, if so be that the **Spirit** of God **dwell in you**. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Thought 3. We are 100% IN the Spirit and are NOT in the flesh AT ALL!

John 14:18, I will not leave you **comfortless (bereaved ("orphan"))**: I will **come to you**.

NOTE: The **disciples** of a particular **teacher** among the Hebrews called him **father**; his scholars were called his **children**, and, on his death, were considered as orphans. Christ calls his disciples children, beloved children, John 13:33; and, now that he is about to be removed from them by death, he assures them that they shall not be left fatherless, or without a teacher; for in a little time he should come again, (rise from the dead,) and, after his ascension, they should be made **partakers** of that **SPIRIT** which would be their **comforter**, advocate, teacher, and guide for ever.

(Source: The Adam Clarke Commentary classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

Thought 1. As explained, Jesus' choice of words referred to them as "disciples." He was not, and never referred to himself as being a Father to children. There is only one Father.

Ephesians 4:4, 6, There is... ..One **God** and **Father** of ALL, who is **above** all, and through all, and in you all.

John 20:17, Jesus saith... Touch me not; for I am **not** yet ascended to **my Father**: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto **MY Father**, and **your Father**; and to MY God, and your God.

Romans 8:29, For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of **his Son**, that he might be the firstborn among **many brethren**.

John 14:19, Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, **YE** shall live also.

NOTE: As surely as I shall rise from the dead, so shall ye. My **resurrection** shall be the proof and pledge of yours. And because I live a life of intercession for you at the right

hand of God, ye shall live a life of grace and peace here, and a life of glory hereafter.
(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

John 14:20, At that day ye shall **know** that I am IN my Father, and ye IN me, and I IN you.

NOTE: At that day, when I am **glorified**, when the Spirit is poured out, you shall know more clearly and certainly than you do now that I am **IN** my Father, and you **IN** me, and I **IN** you.

... First, Union with Christ is the **life** of believers; and their relation to him, and to God through him, is their felicity. Secondly, The knowledge of this union is their unspeakable joy and satisfaction; they were now **IN Christ**, and he **IN them**, but he speaks of it as a further act of grace that they should know it, and have the comfort of it.

(Source: *The Matthew Henry Commentary on the whole Bible* classic.studylight.org/com/mhc)

John 17:20-23, Neither pray I for these alone, but for **them** also which shall **believe** on me through their word. That they ALL may **be ONE**; AS thou, **Father**, art in me, and I **IN thee**, that they also may **be ONE** (1. single by union; undivided 2. in AGREEMENT) in us: that the world may believe that thou hast **sent me**. And the **glory** which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be **ONE**, even AS we are **ONE**: I IN them, and thou IN me, that they may be made perfect **IN** one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast **loved them**, as thou hast **loved me**.

John 14:21-23, He that hath **my commandments**, and **keepeth** them, he it is that **loveth** me: and he that **LOVETH** me shall be **LOVED** of my Father, and I will **love him**, and will **manifest** myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man **LOVE me**, he will **KEEP** my words: and my Father will **love** him, and we will come unto him, and make **OUR abode (residence)** with him.

Thought 1. Here Jesus makes plain when people believe on him, it's because they love him "socially and morally" as previously found in the definition of the word "love." He goes on to say that when the believer is "indwelt by the Holy Spirit, they are in essence being indwelt by him and the Father.

1 John 3:22-24, And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we **keep** his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And **THIS IS his commandment**, That we should **BELIEVE** on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he gave us commandment. And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth **IN him**, and he **IN him**. And hereby we **KNOW** that he abideth **IN us**, by the SPIRIT which he hath given us.

Ephesians 2:22, In whom ye also are builded together for an **habitation (dwelling-place)** of God ...through the Spirit.

Philippians 2:12-13, Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, ...but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with **FEAR** (reverence) and trembling. For it is God which worketh **IN you** both to **will (desire)** and to **DO** of HIS good pleasure.

1 John 4:4, Ye are of God, little children, and ...have **OVERCOME** them: ...because **GREATER** is he that is **IN YOU**, than **HE** that is **IN** the world.

1 John 4:15, Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, **God dwelleth** IN him, and he **IN** God.

John 14:24, He that **LOVETH me not** keepeth NOT my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

Thought 1. Jesus could say this because he had earlier said, he only said what his Father taught him he should say. So, his words came from the Father, who was inside of him.

John 8:28, Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I **do nothing of myself**; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

John 14:10, Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father IN me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the **Father** that **dwelleth IN me**, he DOETH the works.

Thought 2. He also had spoken earlier of those who hated him and went about to kill him. Later, in chapter 15, he'd say more about this, and why they hated him.

John 7:19, Did not Moses give you the law, and yet none of you keepeth the law? Why go ye about to **kill me**?

John 8:42-45, Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would **LOVE me**: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me. Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

John 15:18-20, If the world **HATE** you, ye know it **hated ME BEFORE** it **hated** you. If ye were OF the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the **world**, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore (*for this reason*) the world hateth you. **Remember** the word that I said unto you, The **servant** is **not** greater than his lord. If (since) they have **persecuted** me, they WILL also persecute you...

John 14:25-26, *These things have I spoken unto you, being yet **present** WITH you. But the COMFORTER, which is the **Holy Ghost**, whom the Father will SEND in my name, he shall **teach** you all things, and bring all things to your **remembrance**, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

NOTE: If in the things which I have already spoken to you, there appear to you any obscurity (want of light), the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, Counselor, and Instructor, will take away all your doubts, free you from all embarrassment, and give you a **perfect understanding** in all things: and this Spirit ye shall shortly receive.

Ephesians 1:17-19 ...the **God** of our Lord Jesus Christ, **the Father** of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the **eyes** of your **understanding** being **enlightened**; that ye may **KNOW** what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward **who believe...**

Here Christ promises them that inspiration of the Holy Spirit which enabled them not only to give a true history of his life and death, but also gave them the most perfect **recollection** of all the words which he had spoken to them, so that they have been able to transmit to posterity (descendants) the identical words which Jesus uttered in his sermons, and in his different discourses with them, the Jews, and others.

(Source: *The Adam Clarke Commentary* classic.studylight.org/com/acc/)

John 14:27, Peace I leave with you, **my peace** I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. **Let not** your **heart** be troubled, neither **LET** it be afraid.