



Who Is Your Helper?

“No, I will not abandon you as orphans – I will come to you.” (John 14:18, NLT)

For three years, the twelve disciples had given up everything to follow Jesus. What a life it had been – crowds, camping, preaching, miracles and danger! However, they were confused. Recently, Jesus had begun talking about how the priests and religious leaders would arrest, mock, insult, spit on, flog and kill him. He even said he would rise again on the third day. That went right over their heads. Then he told them he was leaving. Puzzled, the disciples asked themselves, “How can that be? Isn’t he the promised Messiah, the one who will deliver Israel from the hated Romans?” Troubled and scared, they wondered, “What will we do without Jesus?”

Looking into their sorrowful faces, Jesus tenderly comforted them. “Don’t be troubled. Trust me. I’m going to my Father’s home to prepare a place for you, and when everything is ready, I’ll come back for you and you will be with me forever.” (John 14:1-3, NIV) They didn’t understand that at all!

The secret of Jesus’ life

Then Jesus shared this astounding secret of his life. “Remember those words I said? They were my Father’s words! Those miracles I did? My Father did them through me!” He said, *“Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father...The words I say are not my own, but my Father who lives in me does his work through me. Just believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me.”* (John 14:9,10b-11a, NLT) The Father, who lived in Jesus, did his work through him. That was his secret. That is also your secret!

The promise

Jesus then gave a thrilling, comforting promise to his disciples and to all believers who would follow:

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor [Helper], who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth No, I will not abandon you as orphans **I will come to you.** When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my Father, and **you are in me, and I am in you.** (John 14:16-18, 20, NLT)

How could Jesus leave them and yet live in them? How can he live in you? God is three persons in one – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. God became a man in Jesus so that he could die for the sins of the world. When he ascended to heaven, his physical body left the earth, but through the Holy Spirit, he lives in you and every believer. The Holy Spirit is a gift to you to help you learn God's truths and empower you to live to please him. He will never leave you As one of Jesus' new disciples in . the 21st century; the promise Jesus gave to his twelve apostles is also your promise. It is the secret of living the Christian life. It is the secret of spreading the Good News all over the world. Jesus lives in you. As you yield to him, he will guide you, minister to others through you and spread the Gospel. That is God's only plan to reach the world!

Unfortunately, many Christians live for years and never learn this secret. They know their sins are forgiven and never doubt they will go to heaven when they die. However, they know little of the Holy Spirit and God's provision, power and plan for living. So what happens? Thankful and excited that God has saved them, they roll up their sleeves and with determination try to quit bad habits, clean up their language, and even read their Bible and pray every day – all in their own fleshly (self) power! They may wear a happy face, but deep inside they are frustrated and full of doubt. It's called "walking in the flesh" or "running your own life." They live like orphans. However, the Christian life is not a self-improvement course! It is a life surrendered and dependent on Jesus, who can do all things. The Apostle Paul learned, "*For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.*" (Philippians 4:13, NLT)

Your helper

The Greek word translated "counselor" is *parakletos*, meaning "one who is called alongside of," (helper, comforter, encourager and advocate). The Holy Spirit is **another** Counselor or Helper. Who was the first? It was Jesus himself. Jesus had been the disciples' Counselor or Helper who taught them what to do and gave them strength and power to do it. (Read Luke 9:1-6, NIV) Now, through the Holy Spirit, Jesus would continue to live in them. Surrendered, a believer lives by the same power that resurrected Jesus! The Spirit releases the life of Jesus in you and acts through you, as you choose to trust him.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, who is the presence of Christ, Jesus makes your heart his home. He lives in you, and you live in him. He is your LIFE! The Bible says, "*And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in his glory.*" (Colossians 4:4, NLT) "*For this is the secret: Christ lives in you, and this is your assurance that you will share in his glory.*" (Colossians 1:27, NLT)

Living by faith

How do you live this new life? By faith! Just as you believed Jesus took the punishment for your sins and forgave your sins; believe that Jesus is now living in you. Begin your day by saying, "Thank you, Jesus, that you are my life, my victory." Talk to him all day and ask for his guidance. Jesus said, "*And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*" (John 8:32, NLT) Your "chooser" is no longer under the power of Satan. It has been set free

so that you can choose to let the Spirit lead and guide you. As you choose his way, you will become more and more like Jesus. Think of yourself as a house with many rooms. Jesus wants to be Master of every room in your home! Don't live like an orphan!

Attitude Check:

- What attitude should you have to allow Jesus to live his life through you?

Explore:

- Read, "God's Spirit Will Help You Overcome" (Romans 8:9-14) and "God's Spirit Will Guide You" (John 16:13-15)
- Write in your journal new things you learned about your Helper.

Talking with God:

- Thank you, Father, for your Helper. Each day help me choose to give up my control and allow your Spirit to control my life.