



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – May 22, 2021

The Lord be with you.

I just resigned from being the fourth person of the Godhead... That's what I said to my wife one Sunday on our way one from church. I just resigned from being a fourth person of the Godhead... You see, I was tired of thinking that I bore the weight of the church. Tired of thinking like I had to make things happen. That it was about me and how I was doing. Today, I wanna talk with you about the person who does carry the weight of the church on his shoulders, the person who carries the weight of your life and my life on his shoulders, the person who empowers us and the person who does make things happen, and that is the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit. As this Sunday is Pentecost, the day that we celebrate the Holy Spirit poured out in power on the church.

Pentecost fulfills Jesus' promise to give the Holy Spirit to His followers. On the night before Jesus gave His life on the cross, He promised His disciples in John chapter 14, verse 16, I will ask the Father and He will give you another advocate to be with you forever. And here in this verse, Jesus is talking about the sending of the Holy Spirit. Whom this translation calls the advocate. Other versions call the Holy Spirit here, comforter or counselor or helper. The Holy Spirit here is, well, it's translated by different Greek words, because we do not have one English word that fully expresses the rich meaning of the original... You see the Greek word here is paraclete. I will ask the Father and He will give you another paraclete. The basic meaning of Paraclete in that ancient Greco woman rolled well, apparently was a person called alongside to help, a person called alongside to help, just in any way. That's in Jesus' day, a paraclete could be an advocate in a court of law, a paraclete could be a teacher, a helper, a counselor, a guide, a consoler one who speaks on your behalf. A Paraclete is called alongside to help, called alongside to stand with you.

But note closely what Jesus promises. I will ask the Father and He will give you another paraclete. Another paraclete. There are two Greek words in the New Testament that are translated as another. One word signifies another of the same kind, the other word signifies another of a different kind, Jesus here uses is a Greek word allon, that's a on that means another of the same kind. Another paraclete of the same kind. Jesus here is implying that he has been their Paraclete. One called alongside to help to serve. So that the Holy Spirit who comes on the church at Pentecost will take up Jesus' role as Paraclete, the world that Jesus has already been fulfilling with them. So the Holy Spirit will not be different from Jesus, he will be like Jesus, He will be another Paraclete of the same kind to them as Jesus had been to them for those three years. The Holy Spirit will be for every believer. A Paraclete, one called alongside to help. As Jesus had been. As the Holy Spirit will supply Jesus presence in his absence. A few chapters over in John 16:7, Jesus says, I tell you the



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truth. It is to your advantage that I go away. For if I do not go away, the Paraclete will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. The Son of God, Jesus took on himself a body like ours, so that he could not be personally bodily present to people all over the world at the same time, but the Holy Spirit is everywhere present. So that the Holy Spirit can be Paraclete to you right now as you listen. The Holy Spirit can be Paraclete to me as I speak, as a Holy Spirit can be Paraclete to Christians all over the world. The Holy Spirit in a sense, in a sense, replaces Christ to carry on Christ's work in the world, to encourage us, to strengthen us, to teach us, to guide us as another Paraclete of the same kind. So that the Holy Spirit will do for you what Jesus would do for you if Jesus were bodily present with you right now, the Holy Spirit will be your helper, your counselor, your guide, your teacher.

As Jesus was Immanuel God's presence on earth. So the Holy Spirit is God's presence in us. Making you and me God's presence in the world. So Jesus promises that another paraclete like him, he says, will be with you forever. In the Old Testament, we see the Holy Spirit coming on people, giving them strength with some guidance, but the Holy Spirit did not remain with them. Jesus is promising that the Holy Spirit, paraclete, will be with you and me forever. He will take us all the way home to heaven. There was a time I thought that it had been so wonderful to have been there with those first disciples as they walk with Jesus for those three years, and then I could have asked Jesus to teach me. I could have asked Jesus to help me to go be encouragement, but you know, you and I, as we have in us, the presence of the Holy Spirit. He is Jesus, promised paraclete, called alongside to be as Jesus and to be with us forever.

Spirit of the living God. Fall fresh on us. Spirit of the living God. Fall fresh on us. Melts us. Mold us. Fill us. Use us. Spirit of the living God. Fall fresh on us.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thanks for listening until next time.