



(3) The Spirit Comforts John 14: 15-27

Aim: learning about the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's ministry

Opening up!

Catch up with one another. Last week we talked about how the Spirit could renew us and we prayed for help with our weaknesses. Share any experiences where you have drawn upon that renewing Spirit.

A crisis often reveals who our true friends are. When we've failed or fallen, people can sometimes find it convenient to avoid us. Some who claimed to be our friends abandon us. But a few prove themselves to be genuine friends by coming along beside us and helping us out of despair.

One of the Spirit's ministries is to comfort and counsel us when we are afraid or afflicted or abandoned. In this passage Jesus speaks to his troubled disciples about the Spirit's comforting power.

Think of a person who has helped you in a time of personal crisis or need.
What did that person do to bring comfort to you?

Listening in!

1 Read John 14:15-27.

Why do you think Jesus' disciples were troubled?

2 What does this passage tell you about what kind of person the Spirit is?

3 The title Counsellor was discussed in the note to question 2 in the first study (John 16:7). The emphasis here should be on the Spirit's personal presence and care when we find ourselves in troubling circumstances. What does the title "Counsellor" in this passage convey to you about the Spirit's ministry?

4 What comes to mind when you think of being abandoned as an "orphan" (verse 18)?

5 How will the Holy Spirit bring comfort to these followers of Jesus (John 14:26-27)?

- 6 Think about some ways in which the Spirit has helped or comforted you.
If you can, share them with the group.
- 7 How does Christ's peace differ from the peace the world offers (verse 27)?

Looking Out!

Summarise what you have learnt about the Holy Spirit through the scripture that we have shared. Discuss what steps you can take in a time of crisis to gain access to the Spirit's comfort and counsel? Look out for the Holy Spirit's leading and be open to be used by him in order to bring comfort to others, particularly on your frontline.

Now and Later!

Turn what you have learnt from Jesus about the Holy Spirit into prayer.
End this time by using the words of either the hymn or song below as a prayer.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Fill me with life anew,
That I may love what Thou dost love,
And do what Thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Until my heart is pure,
Until with Thee I will one will,
To do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
Blend all my soul with Thine,
Until this earthly part of me
Glows with Thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God,
So shall I never die,

But live with Thee the perfect life
Of Thine eternity.

Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.

Break me, melt me,
Mould me, fill me,
Spirit of the living God,
Fall afresh on me.