

# COMFORT, PEACE AND THE ILLUMINATION OF THE SPIRIT

*John 14:25-31*

## Introduction:

What does the Spirit do in the Christian life? We, in our theological tradition, are very good at saying what the Spirit does NOT do, but can we say what He does do?

I think we are afraid of what we might find out. I think we want to quickly move on from thinking about the Spirit in order to focus on scripture, Jesus or God the Father. Those are much more “safe.” I think we actually handle certain passages of scripture poorly when we look at it this way. The topic of the Spirit was never intended to create confusion, fear or division.

## The Spirit, the Helper, the Teacher

- Jesus’ giving of the Spirit was meant to be a great comfort in a time of great fear. Jesus is promising that the Spirit will be a help when they most need Him.
- The Spirit is going to be sent by the Father in the name, or for the purposes of, Jesus. Just like Jesus came in the name of the Father, proclaiming everything that the Father desired, the Spirit comes in the name of the Son, proclaiming Him in everything. The Spirit will glorify the Son, not something or someone else. If something else is glorified, it is not the Holy Spirit who is teaching. They get God the Spirit living in them to accomplish all of the plans they had already started. The mission of Jesus would continue.
- He would *teach them all things*.
  1. This means that the Bible you have in your hand was “written” by the Holy Spirit as He brought to remembrance everything that Jesus said and intended. This was a guarantee that the Apostles would not “get it wrong” when they recorded it for our benefit.
  2. This also means that the same Spirit that resides in us will help us understand what was written. He helps us to understand and remember what we have read in Scripture. He takes what He has inspired and brings it to our remembrance when we need it.
  3. He highlights Jesus, not Himself. We will come back to this at a future point, but in our text He brings to mind everything that Jesus has said.

## Illumination of the Spirit

The Spirit is not bringing a “new revelation.” He takes what Jesus has said, in the Gospels, and reveals it to us through the Apostles. We are not looking for something else other than Scripture. We are looking for more help with Scripture. Illumination! We need the Spirit’s help with understanding the very book we trust. *1 Corinthians 2:14-16*

## Though I Am Leaving...

- Jesus promises them peace. How great would peace be from the One who holds all creation in His hands? Sit back and meditate on what this would mean if we actually believed it moment by moment!!!
- How will this peace come? It must come through Him accomplishing His work for them, so He must die.
- The Spirit must come and apply it to them. They would need to remember what Jesus said and this is the role of the Spirit.
- We have peace in this same way! Jesus had to die for us (Romans 5:1 ff) and the Spirit must impress this on our minds, helping us to trust in Him alone! (Philippians 4:4-7)

“The peace Jesus promises, then, is radical in the sense that it goes to the radix (root) of the problem. Jesus leaves his peace with his disciples: that is, Jesus’ “going away” via the cross is the step he takes to leave behind his peace.” Carson pg 76-77