

John 14 – Very great and precious promises. (6) The indwelling Spirit. (refs for Bible study 15/11/18).

If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. v15-17

The True Christian is one who loves Jesus and keeps his commands. v15 is statement rather than exhortation. This is how you recognise a true Christian, see v23. Three things are bound up together: faith in Christ, obedience to Christ, love for Christ, 1Jn.3v23-24, 1Jn.5v3. How will I keep going in faith, obedience and love? See the next verse..

The Gracious Gift of the Holy Spirit is given to all true Christians. v16-17. 'I will pray...he will give'. Jesus' prayers for us are always answered. All the resources of the Trinity are deployed for our salvation. He is God's gracious gift to us. Two of his titles are mentioned here:

He is the Spirit of Truth: in a confused and deceitful world how wonderful to have the Spirit of Truth! He opens our eyes to understand the Word of Truth (the Bible). He continually points us to Jesus who is the Truth.

He is the Paraclete: Jesus says 'another paraclete' in place of me. This rich title has no single English equivalent. Meaning: 'one who is called alongside to help'. Used 4x of the Spirit, 1x of Christ 1Jn.2v1. Several poss translations:

- **Advocate:** as Jesus is our advocate in heaven, so the Spirit is our advocate on earth. When Satan tempts us to despair the Spirit reassures us, Rom.8v16. He directs our attention to Christ.
- **Comforter:** 'comfort' has shifted its meaning. Not 'sugar and spice'! Literally 'with strength' (com forte). He comforts us by fortifying us. 'Tough love.' He makes us more sensitive to sin, tougher with temptation.
- **Helper:** Helper covers many aspects of the Spirit's ministry to us. He helps us to obey, to love, to trust, to pray Rom.8v26. Be careful not to think of 'helper' as 'assistant'! He is the awesome third Person of the Godhead.
- **Counsellor:** Highlights one important aspect – he befriends, guides, teaches, and brings the Word of God to life.

His presence is: **a permanent presence:** 'abide with you forever'. He won't be taken from the church, nor from the Christian. Though unconfessed sin may lead us to fear he will leave us, Ps.51v11. **An unrecognised presence:** 'the world cannot receive... it neither sees Him nor knows Him'. Invisible to the eye of flesh. World doesn't understand his work, unless he opens their eyes... therefore pray! **An indwelling presence:** 'He dwells with you and will be in you.' He dwells within every one of his people. Praise God for his wonderful, gracious Gift who indwells you. We need him in our fight with sin Rom.8v13-14. We can do nothing without him.