

The Comforter

Joseph Carty / General

Friend of Jesus / Holy Spirit; Helper / John 14:1-3

Famous Last Words

General John Sedgwick, a Union officer during the Civil War, who during the battle of the Wilderness insisted on peeking above the works to see the situation. As his men warned him to come down, he rejected their advice with the last words, “They couldn’t hit an elephant at this dist-.”

Scotland’s Robert the Bruce were, “Now, God be with you, my dear children. I have breakfasted with you and shall sup with my Lord Jesus Christ.”

John Calvin’s last words were, “I am abundantly satisfied, since it is from thy hand.”

John Knox said, “Live in Christ, live in Christ, and the flesh need not fear death.”

John Wesley proclaimed on his deathbed, “The best of all is, God is with us. Farewell! Farewell!”

Henry Ward Beecher - “Now comes the mystery!”

Joan of Arc: “Hold the cross high so I may see it through the flames!”

Karl Marx - Was asked, “Do you have any last words...??? He answered, “Go on, get out! Last words are for fools who haven’t said enough!”

- Jesus know
 - last hours
 - moments of peace
 - with disciples.
- What can he
 - say / do
 - to encourage them.

John 13:33 ESV

Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me, and just as I said to the Jews, so now I also say to you, ‘Where I am going you cannot come.’

- About to experience
 - severe trial
 - what will get them through?
- Jesus worried
 - about disciples.
- He wanted to
 - give them
 - courage
 - strength
 - hope
 - purpose
 - future

Famous Last Words

- Jesus
 - gets to point
 - the gift

- the promise
 - that He has for them:

[John 16:5-7](#) (ESV)

But now I am going to him who sent me... But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.

Helper

- Yes,
 - I'm leaving
- But,
 - Most importantly
 - I got you covered...
- Send The Helper
- Something/someone
 - better than my presence:

- The omni-presence
 - of the Holy Spirit!
- Jesus was not
 - omni-present.

“Just prior to His leaving His disciples for the heavenly courts, Jesus encouraged them with the promise of the Holy Spirit. This promised blessing, if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in its train, and it is to be given liberally to the people of God.” AUCR April 1, 1898

Already, But Not Yet

- We live during this
 - complex time.
- Jesus has come.
 - but

- He has not come.

- 1st time but
- not 2nd time.

- Jesus
 - conquered sin
 - but sin still rules.

- Jesus won victory
 - but
- We are still here...

- Which one is it?

- Jesus promised
 - that from 1st coming
 - to the 2nd coming

- A gift that
 - will see us through.
- Greatest gift possible:

John 14:15–17 ESV

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

Greatest Gift

- Best thing
 - I can leave you with.
 - Gift of the Spirit.
- For 3.5 Chapter
 - Jesus repeats:
 - “I’m leaving.”
 - “Don’t Worry.”

- “I’m giving you a gift.”
 - “The Holy Spirit.”
-
- Still true today.
 - Greatest Gift
 - Navigate This Time
 - Holy Spirit.

I awake at ten o’clock. I cannot sleep. The question urges itself upon my mind, Why do we not plead more earnestly for the impartation of the Holy Spirit. If we had the Spirit, we should not be in such great perplexity. The impartation of the Spirit brings in its train all other blessings. Why do we not seek for this great blessing, which we need daily, and which we may have for the asking? 18LtMs, Ms 82, 1903, par. 1

- What other blessings?

John 14:25–26 ESV

“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

Teacher

- Jesus said,
 - “I could only
 - teach you so much
 - But Holy Spirit
 - will pick up
 - where I left off.”

[John 16:12-13](#) (NIV)

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth....

- Gift of Spirit
 - teaches us.

When about to leave His disciples, Christ was in search of the greatest comfort He could give them. He promised them the Holy Spirit—the Comforter—to combine with man’s human effort. What promise is less experienced, less fulfilled to the church, than the promise of the Holy Spirit? When this blessing, which would bring all blessings in its train, is dropped out, the sure result is spiritual drought. This is the reproach that meets the sermonizer. The church must arise and no longer be content with the meager dew. 6LtMs, Ms 27, 1889,

par. 25

- Verse Goes on...:

[John 16:13](#) (NIV)

... and he will tell you what is yet to come.

Spirit of Prophecy

- The Holy Spirit
 - inspires prophets
 - to communicate future.
- The Spirit does
 - other things
 - testifies and
 - Advocates

[John 15:26–27](#) (NIV)

“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. And you

also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Advocate

- Testifies about Jesus.
- Empower us
 - to testify as well.
- Spirit works as

Advocate - a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.

- The Holy Spirit
 - advocates for Jesus
 - and for us.

But that's not all...

there's more

if you order in next 5 minute...

Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, but how little is this promise appreciated. How seldom is [the Spirit's] power felt in the church; how little is His power spoken of before the people. The Saviour has said: "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me" ([Acts 1:8](#)). With the reception of this gift, all other gifts would be ours; for we are to have this gift according to the plentitude of the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive. YRP 221.3

- He does more...

John 16:8-11 NIV

When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

- Convict World.

Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-24 ESV

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,

faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

- The character of God
- Fruit - singular
- One great package
- This too comes
 - from the Holy Spirit

Gift of the Spirit

Romans 12:4–8 **ESV**

For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

- Gifts
 - abilities to serve
 - spiritual service.

- This too
 - only through
 - Acceptance of
 - Greater gift
 - Gift of Holy Spirit.

Christ declared that the divine influence of the Spirit was to be with His followers unto the end. But the promise is not appreciated as it should be; and therefore its fulfillment is not seen as it might be. The promise of the Spirit is a matter little thought of; and the result is only what might be expected—spiritual drought, spiritual darkness, spiritual declension and death. Minor matters occupy the attention, and the divine power which is necessary for the growth and prosperity of the church, and which would bring all other blessings in its train, is lacking, though offered in its infinite plenitude. 8T 21.3

Summary

- Jesus gave 1 gift
 - that would provide
 - all spiritual needs.

Appeal

- Value the Holy Spirit
- Seek for the Holy Spirit
- Be Filled By the Holy Spirit