

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY (ORGANIZED BIBLE KNOWLEDGE)

Part XI: Pneumatology (Doctrine Of The Holy Spirit)

F. The Holy Spirit's "Paraklete" Ministries

I. Introduction

- A. Our world is ruled by a great Enemy of the believer -- by Satan himself, cf. 2 Cor. 4:4a; 1 John 5:19b.
- B. God knows we need **aid** in our conflict with such a superhuman foe and his forces, so Christ has sent God the Holy Spirit to believers to offer His "Paraklete" ministries of a **parental** nature, John 14:16-18 NIV.

II. The Holy Spirit's "Paraklete" Ministries (I am indebted to Ryrie's work, The Holy Spirit, p. 104ff).

- A. The word, "Comforter" (KJV) in John 14:16 used to describe the Holy Spirit literally means "one who is called to someone's aid," Arndt & Gingrich, Greek-English Lex. of the N.T., p. 623-624. This helping ministry counters a believer's living as a spiritual "orphan" in Satan's perilous world, John 14:16-18 NIV.
- B. Just what is **involved** in the Spirit's aid for the believer is detailed in Scripture as His teaching, guiding, assuring and intercessory ministries ("paraklete" being the Greek word rendered "Comforter" in the KJV):
 - 1. The Holy Spirit **teaches** the believer much like a parent teaches a child:
 - a. When the Holy Spirit came at Pentecost, Peter evidenced a clarity of understanding in his Pentecost sermon, giving evidence of the Spirit's inner instruction to him, Acts 2:1-4, 12-13, 14.
 - b. The **content** of what the Holy Spirit instructs the believer includes: (a) all the truth concerning Jesus Christ found in Scripture, cf. John 16:13; Luke 24:25-27 (b) with a particular emphasis on prophetic truths about Christ, John 16:13d; Revelation 1:1.
 - c. The authority for this teaching ministry is Christ Who uses the Holy Spirit as His vehicle for imparting truth to the believer, John 16:13b.
 - d. The Holy Spirit uses two methods to impart this truth to the believer: (a) He **subjectively** impresses the believer with what is truth, 1 John 2:20, 27 and (b) He **objectively** uses the written Word of God (which can either be taught to a believer by spiritually gifted teachers [1 John 4:6] or which he himself can read and understand for himself, cf. 1 Cor. 2:12-16 and Acts 17:10-11.)
 - 2. The Holy Spirit parentally **guides** the believer in his experience much like a parent guides his child:
 - a. Truly justified Christians are led by the Holy Spirit in their lives, Romans 8:14.
 - b. Scripture provides examples of **how** the Spirit **thus** leads the believer (as follows): (a) In the transition between the dispensations of Law and Grace, the Spirit used direct revelation, Acts 8:29. (b) In that same dispensational transition, the Spirit used visions, Acts 10:19. [This is not to deny such vehicles can be used by God today, but the **need** for them is curtailed by the completeness of the written revelation, cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-4:2. **Were** God to use them today, their **content** would have to **agree with written Scripture**, Rom. 12:6 (Ryrie St. Bib., KJV fn.)] (c) The Spirit uses decisions of organized Church leaders to guide believers, Acts 13:1-3. (d) The Spirit may use circumstances aligned with Scriptural leading of other kinds to guide believers, Acts 16:6-10 with Acts 13:1-16:5. (e) The Spirit may lead through the Biblical teaching of credible Church leaders, Acts 21:11 with 20:23. (f) The Spirit may guide believers by their personal Bible reading, Acts 17:10-11.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit's **assuring** work supplies stability for the believer much like a parent does for a child:
 - a. The Spirit gives **subjective** evidence to one's **heart** that he is a child of God, Rom. 5:5; 8:16.
 - b. He **subjectively** convinces believers they fellowship with God, Rom. 5:5; 1 John 3:24b.
 - c. He **subjectively** assures the believer of the final redemption of his earthly body, Rom. 5:5; 8:23.
 - 4. The Holy Spirit's **intercessory** work to God aids the believer as does a mother's appeal for her child:
 - a. As no believer prays well enough to be effective, the Spirit intercedes for him to God, Rom. 8:26.
 - b. This intercession involves unutterable groanings to the Father in the believer's behalf, Romans 8:26.
 - c. The Spirit can guide the godly believer's thoughts so he can pray in God's will, Ep. 6:18; Phil. 2:13.
 - d. The result of such prayer is confidence one's relationship with God is good, and that he is in His will and praying within that will when his prayers are answered, 1 John 3:22.

Lesson: *In a world ruled by SATANIC forces, we should rely on the Spirit's PARENTING ministries.*

Application: *In view of our vulnerability before our superhuman spiritual foe in Satan, let us who believe in Christ **DEPEND** upon the Holy Spirit's PARENTING ministries unto us for God's blessing!*