

## ANOTHER COMFORTER

Evan A. Fry, Radio Minister  
 Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ  
 of Latter Day Saints  
 Independence, Missouri

All Rights Reserved

SCRIPTURE: John 14:15-18, 25, 26; 16:12-14.

If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ... I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you ..... These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you..... I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.

\*\*\*\*\*

When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me.

Have you ever tried to hide from God? The Psalmist David seems to have had the experience of trying to find a place where God was not, for in the 130th Psalm we read: "Whither shall I go from thy Spirit, or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day; the darkness and the light are both alike unto thee."

God, through the power and instrumentality of his Holy Spirit, is everywhere. No man can flee from him, or escape his Spirit's influence and presence. The qualities manifested by the Holy Spirit are the qualities and attributes of God, for the Holy Spirit is a part of God. That Spirit is the source of all life. It brooded over the waters while the earth was yet without form and void. It called forth the order of creation; It is the force, energy, power, or mind by which God still rules, orders, and sustains his creations. It is the source of all life, all light, all power, all truth, all intelligence, all wisdom, all order. It is in all things, through all things, above all things, beneath all things, and round about all things.

The Holy Spirit proceedeth forth continually -- eternally -- from the presence of God. No man who comes into the world can altogether escape the blessings and the influence of this Spirit of power, which enlightens, vitalizes, sustains, blesses, and in some degree guides every man, regardless of his attitude towards God. God's Spirit enlightens every man that cometh into the world, for "whither shall I go from thy Spirit?"

As Jesus prepared his disciples for his departure, he spoke to them of another Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Spirit, and yet they are different, in the sense that they have different functions, or different methods of operation. The Spirit enlightens every man. The Comforter comes only to those who fulfil certain conditions and make themselves fit and ready. The world that knows not Jesus may receive the ministrations of the Holy Spirit; that is, from it they receive life and strength of body and mind. They

live in a universe and in a world which is a product of that Spirit's creative power. But the world cannot receive the Comforter, because the Comforter is a substitute for the physical presence of the Christ, and worldly unbelievers who do not receive Christ will not receive the Comforter -- nor would they recognize or appreciate it if it should come. The Comforter proceedeth eternally, unceasingly, from the Father, but only those who know and receive Jesus can know and receive the Comforter, which is sent to take his place -- which came because he went away -- which will be unnecessary when he returns to reign over his kingdom and to be with his own.

How then is the Comforter received? In spite of the seeming exception to the rule, when Cornelius and the Gentiles received the Holy Ghost before baptism in order to convince Peter and the apostles that God was no respecter of persons, the rule is reasonable, logical, plain. The Spirit of God does not dwell in unholy or unworthy temples. Before the Comforter can come and abide, there must be faith in God and in his Son, Jesus Christ; repentance from sin and dead works, baptism in water as a symbol of the new birth, and then the laying on of hands by God's chosen and authorized ministry for the gift of the Holy Ghost. Thus is man born of water and of the Spirit. Thus is accomplished the new birth, without which no man can enter the kingdom of God. Many men have been led and blessed and directed by the Holy Spirit as it guided them towards this new birth. But no man has had the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, as an abiding presence and power, unless he has first become a new creature in Christ Jesus -- unless he has purged out that which would grieve or drive away that Spirit, and allowed its new life to enter and abide in him.

When this abiding Comforter comes to new-born men, it performs certain well-defined functions. It testifies of Christ, it bears witness of Christ, it glorifies Christ. It directs Christ's church, and his ministry. It brings to our remembrance the things Christ taught. It guides us into all truth. It teaches us all things, if we are willing to be taught, and to make the effort to study, reenforced by the prayer of faith. It convicts us of sin; if by mistake or by momentary wilfulness we turn aside into the ways of sin, it calls us back to God. It gives us peace and assurance in our righteousness. It imparts such spiritual gifts as faith, knowledge, wisdom, prophecy, tongues, interpretations of tongues, gifts of healing, gifts of miracles. It is the Spirit which leads us to do good. It is the Spirit of light, of intelligence, of wisdom, of understanding, of freedom and liberty, of joy, of peace, of hope. In the words of Paul, it is "the earnest of our inheritance." The life of Christ dwelling in us by the Holy Spirit of the Comforter, is our promise and foretaste of that perfect life which is to be in his kingdom. It is the power of the resurrection by which our bodies shall be raised and made perfect for the richer, fuller life of Christ's kingdom, when he returns to earth to claim his own.

The Comforter is not only one who comes with solace in affliction, but according to the origins of the word itself, one who comes with strength. One of the most important functions of the Comforter is to impart power for service, to supplement and augment the human powers of men, so that they become instruments in the hands of God, blessed with his wisdom, his discernment, his love, his power. The apostles had received the Holy Spirit before Pentecost, when Jesus breathed on them on the eve of his resurrection. But they did not receive the Comforter as an abiding presence and power until they had tarried in Jerusalem, waiting for the power from on high to equip them for their work. That power -- the Comforter -- "he who comes with strength" came to them at Pentecost.

Do you know the abiding presence of the Comforter? Or have you ignored the promptings of the Holy Spirit which would lead you to make the preparation of faith, repentance, baptism, and laying on of hands? Only by such preparation can you be made added power for the service of Christ and his kingdom. "My Spirit will not always strive with man." Even the Comforter can be grieved, if we do not abide in Christ, in his doctrine, in his word, in his church. But if we abide in him, and he in us, we may ask what we will, and it shall be done unto us through the power of the Comforter, the Holy Spirit of Promise.