

Sermon ~ Sunday, July 26, 2020

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Text: John 15: 26 (Nehemiah 3)

KJV – “But 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...”

NLT – “But I will send you **The COUNSELOR**—**The SPIRIT of TRUTH**. **HE will** come to you from **The FATHER** and will tell you all about ME.”

Title: “**Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!**”

In this text, **JESUS** uses two *Names* for **The HOLY SPIRIT**— “**COUNSELOR**” and “**SPIRIT of TRUTH.**”

***COUNSELOR**, *sumboulos* (soom'-boo-los), ‘syn,’ that is, to ‘identify closely with’ and, ‘boule,’ that is, ‘determined purpose’ properly, a consultant; a formal (**OFFICIAL**) advisor or helper; assistant or encourager; supporter and strengthening work of **The HOLY SPIRIT**.

The HOLY SPIRIT, dwells in the followers of **JESUS**, like **JESUS** dwelt among and with believers (John 14: 16-17).

***The SPIRIT of TRUTH**, points to the teaching, illuminating, and reminding work of **The SPIRIT**.

The HOLY SPIRIT ministries to both ‘the head’ and ‘the heart’ of the believer!

From this Biblical text, in these perilous times, through these present trials, tests, troubles, tragedies, temptations and tribulations we are experiencing, I (we) need to cry out,

“**Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!**”

My dear mentor, the late Pastor, R. E. Campbell, taught that **SCRIPTURE supports SCRIPTURE!**

That is, every **SCRIPTURE point to JESUS... If JESUS, is not** seen in **SCRIPTURE**, then **SCRIPTURE is not** speaking to you, but you are just reading **SCRIPTURE!!!**

Well, in what way can **The HOLY SPIRIT help us???**

The Book of Nehemiah, tells of the ‘ruin—return—repentance’ of **GOD’S people to Jerusalem** (their homeland) after captivity (being carried-off); of their *rebuilding The Walls* and *renewal* of their **Faith in GOD... seeing** the devastation; *weeping* over the City; the *asking* of The King for a mandate to *rebuild* what’s been left in ruins. But there’s a *spiritual meaning* to what’s been left in ruins, when “The Gates” are *rebuild*. *The Gates* tell a story, of why we need to cry out,

“**Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!**”

The *first Gate* (Nehemiah 3: 1) is the Sheep Gate and next to it, *the Tower of Hananel* (which means ‘**GOD’S mercy**’) and the *Tower of the Me’ah* (which means ‘one hundred’). That is the *Gate* through which they brought the sheep into Jerusalem to be sacrificed in the Temple.

JESUS said, “What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine, in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he finds it.” (Luke 15: 4) {It’s like a *dozen* eggs: if *one* egg is missing, you don’t have a *dozen*. Or, if *one* sheep is missing, you don’t have a *proper flock*. A proper flock had to be *one hundred*. But next to the *Sheep Gate* is the Fish Gate, where merchants/sellers would enter to do their merchandising (Nehemiah 3: 3). **JESUS** said, “Follow **ME**, and I will make you *fishers* of men.” (Matthew 4: 19) When you and I are ‘*born-again*’, we get ‘*caught for commitment*.’ Like **JESUS** disciples, after **HE** was crucified on *The Cross*, they locked themselves behind closed doors, **JESUS** appeared unto them **ALIVE** and *commissions* them and then, disappears (John 20: 19-31). But afterward, Peter and the others, went *fishing* (all night) and caught nothing... but at day break, **JESUS** was on the shore, *cooking fish*, called out to them, ‘Children have you any meat? They answered **HIM**, No. **HE** said to them, *cast the net on the right side*, and ye shall find.’ (John 21: 5, 6) They caught one hundred fifty-three, and their nets did not break. Only at the command of **JESUS!!!**

“Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!”

The next gate is the Old Gate (Nehemiah 3: 6). Next to it is the Gate of Ephraim. *Ephraim* means “*fruitfulness*” or “*doubly fruitful*.” This *Gate* was at the beginning of a long valley called *Tyropean Valley*. It runs through the Old City of Jerusalem with The Wall running parallel, that was *hollow*, with *inward cavities*.

JESUS teaches, the **CHRISTian** is to *progress not regress*... first saved, those first few days are absolutely amazing. The scales fall off our eyes. We see **The TRUTH**. But after two or three days we begin to come to their senses, or they think. Is this real? Is this what I really want to commit myself to? Is this really the way I want to live my life? Is it going to be like this, that I’m not going to be able to go out and gamble and get drunk and take drugs and sleep with women and fool around with other men and cheat on my wife and to stop smoking? Is this really for real? Then the *social pressures* begin. Your old friends, your old desires confront you, and within a couple days you are face with a choice... **JESUS** teaches, “**The SEED** (nothing is wrong with **The SEED—JESUS**, it’s always the soil, the heart, of the hearer) fell on rocky ground (Matthew 13: 20). It finds just enough soil to produce a plant, but it will not grow nearly enough to yield the crop intended. For when troubles and persecution come (Matthew 13: 21), from identifying *with JESUS* and the **CHRISTian** communities, material things as money, they “quickly fall away.

“Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!”

There is the Valley Gate (Nehemiah 3: 13) that leads to the Refuse Gate, near the garbage pit, through which the people carried their garbage to be burned in *the Valley of Hinnom* (Nehemiah 3: 14). In this *Valley of Hinnom* is where ‘*backslidden*’ Judah sacrificed their children to Molech (the pagan *god/idol* of ancient time. People who worship this *god* often had to pay their way by offering themselves or their children in a fire of sacrifice). But outside this *Gate* where these two Valleys come together—there is a third *Valley* called *the Kidron Valley*—the three meet together—and the garbage pit burns day and night. It was called Gehennom, the word translated “*hell*” in **The SCRIPTURE**.

We go through *the Sheep Gate*—to *the Fish Gate*. If we “...deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow **JESUS** daily (Luke 9: 23), *fruitfulness* will evident itself as *the Gate of Ephraim*. {“**I AM** come that you might have life and have *it* more abundantly”—John 10: 10} The *old nature* rises and how does **GOD** deal with it? We go through *the Valley Gate*. **GOD** uses *the valleys of difficulties, times of trials, tests and temptations* to deal with our *old natures*. But when we come to *the end of the Valley*, we get to *the Refuse Gate*. *Trials* are difficult when you are going *through them*, but when *they’re over*, you see how much *garbage* **GOD** has thrown out of our lives. That’s just what **HE** wants to do. Oh, we may not like it, but “Count it all **JOY**... the trying of your faith *worketh patience*... let it... don’t want; but **TRUST in JESUS**...”

“Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!”

Lastly, (that is, in this text) there is, *the Fountain Gate* (Nehemiah 3: 15), near the Pool of Siloach, where King Hezekiah’s tunnel brought water into the Old City. It’s the same place where **JESUS** sent the blind man to wash his eyes, that he may see. The miracle, was not in the *water*, but in the man, **obeying JESUS WORD**, to go and wash. The *water* in Hebrew is called “chay mayim” – “**living water-WORD**.” Which Isaiah 44: 1-3 and John 7: 37-39 is, **The Person of The HOLY SPIRIT, WHO quickens** (makes **ALIVE**) **The WORDS of JESUS** (John 6: 63). See this in light of our present Day... this sense of desperation over what’s happening to our nation, in our world, in our democracies, in the state of **The CHURCH**, among religions, this New Age, this Word of Faith Age vs. **Faith in The WORD of GOD**; this Age of Health, Wealth and Prosperity; Positive Thinking and Speaking it to Existence; Naming and Claiming; my Rights and Equal Treatment... **CHRIST** is not failing, but we, *the representatives of The CHURCH* is not winning. **The CHURCH is VICTORIOUS** because of **CHRIST** {**HE** died on Calvary’s Cross, was *buried* and rose from the dead. **HE is** with us now (*indwelling HOLY SPIRIT*) and shall return}, but right now, we are losing. We’re losing the battle to politicians and politics, to what I want and what the people want...

“Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!”

First, The HOLY SPIRIT is GOD—The SPIRIT of GOD!
Second, The HOLY SPIRIT is ONE with GOD, The Third PERSON of The Trinity. **HE** possesses the inherent *nature and character of GOD*. **HE is ‘The Another’... WHO** the world cannot receive’, John 14: 16-17, but *abides* in the believer— ‘**Another of the same kind’**... Thus, **The HOLY SPIRIT is GOD HIMSELF**, *omnipotent* (Job 33: 4), *omnipresent* (Psalm 139: 7-10), and *omniscient* (I Corinthians 2: 10-12). **Third, since The HOLY SPIRIT is a PERSON, HE is GOD!** Marked by a *distinct PERSONALITY*. **HE is not** an “*it*.” **HE** has a **WILL** (I Corinthians 12: 11), **Emotions** (Ephesians 4: 30), and **Intellect** (Romans 8: 27). Oh, you may *resist* **HIM** (Acts 7: 51); *lie to* **HIM** (Acts 5: 3); *grieve* **HIM** (Ephesians 4:30), but **LIFE is in The HOLY SPIRIT**.
That LIFE is JESUS!!!

***The HOLY SPIRIT bring proof to the reality of JESUS; HE testifies as an eye-witness, not** as one reporting something that was told or hearsay; **HE** was right there when **JESUS** died, was *buried* and was *raised* from the dead...

- John 14: 6, “**JESUS** said, **I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life...**”
- John 14: 16a, “**I will** prayer **The FATHER... another COMFORTER... HE** may *abide* with you forever.”
- John 14: 17a,e,f,g, “**The SPIRIT of Truth...** ye know **HIM...** **HE** dwelleth with you, and shall be *in* you.”
- John 14: 18, “**I will not** leave you comfortless: **I will** come to you.”
- John 14: 26, “**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.”
- John 15: 26, 27, ““But 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**. And ye also shall bear *witness*, because ye have been with **ME...**”
- John 16: 8, “And when **HE (The COMFORTER)** is come (and **HE** has) **HE will** reprove the world of *sin* (because of *unbelief* in **JESUS**), of **GOD’S righteousness** (which is available because **I AM with The FATHER**) and of *the coming judgment* (Judgment will come because the prince of this world has already been judged).
- John 16: 13, “**The SPIRIT of Truth...** will *guide you into all Truth*: **HE will not speak of HIMSELF**; whatsoever **HE hear (from ME)** that *shall HE speak*: **HE shall show you things to come.**”
- John 16: 14, “**HE shall glorify ME...**”

“Help us, HOLY SPIRIT!” to Preach, Teach, Witness, JESUS!!!

JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
JESUS, JESUS, JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
Oh JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are!

Beautiful **Rose of Sharon**, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
 Beautiful **Rose of Sharon**, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
 Beautiful **Rose of Sharon**, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
Oh JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are!

LION of The Tribe of Judah, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
LION of The Tribe of Judah, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
LION of The Tribe of Judah, What a Wonder **YOU** are;
Oh JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are!
Oh JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are!
Oh JESUS, What a Wonder **YOU** are!