

THE BIG IDEA: The Helper transforms us into transformers.

The Take-Off

It's been a few weeks since part 2 of The Helper series, and so let's catch up a bit:

First, we've seen clearly that God sent us the Helper because he knew that we need help!

And in the second week, we admitted that it's hard to receive help from people that we don't trust, and so knowing

WHO the Helper is is critical if we're going to trust the help he gives

So, who is the Helper? He's God, he's a person, and he wants to be our friend.

In short, he isn't the crazy uncle of the trinity!

If you missed this teaching, it'd be well worth the time to watch it online or download the podcast, because almost every misunderstanding we have about the Holy Spirit stems from a misunderstanding of his identity

I heard from so many about how knowing the Helper as God and as a person was revolutionary for them, because they had always seen him as a force, a power or an "it"

But he is a friend who is for us, and that lays a wonderful foundation of trust as we turn to what the Holy Spirit does I'm sure there are countless things that we could talk about, but let's focus today on 4 important things that the Helper does in our lives:

1. He teaches us

- a. The first 2 things that the Helper does are found in the same verse - John 14:26
- b. Remember the setting: this is the last conversation Jesus is having with his followers before the cross, and so these are kind of the instructions parents give to their kids before leaving them at home alone
- c. In other words, we'd be wise to really lean in and pay close attention, as I'm sure the disciples did
- d. And what did they hear Jesus tell them about the Helper?
- e. He teaches us
- f. What does he teach us?
- g. He teaches us about God
- h. 1 Corinthians 2:9-13
 - We cannot fully understand God (duh!), but whatever we do understand has been taught to us by the Holy Spirit
 - v. 13 - Paul admitted that what he taught was what he had been taught by the Spirit
- i. He teaches us through God's word
- j. We're in 1 Corinthians 2, so keep your thumb there and flip over to the right and find 2 Peter 1:20-21
 - Clearly, the Bible we have was written through men by the Helper
 - Now, back in 1 Corinthians we can pick up at verse 14 and see that we have an inside track to understanding the Bible because the author helps us understand it
 - Reading the Bible can be like a one-on-one interview with a best selling author when we invite the Helper to use the word of God to teach us about God

2. He reminds us

- a. Look what else the helper does back in John 14:26
- b. He reminds us of God's word!
- c. Some people want the Spirit to simply zap truth into their brains so that they can know everything without doing anything
- d. But the truth is that the Helper reminds us of the word that we've placed within us
- e. Sometimes when I would be helping my kids study for an upcoming test, I could tell that they didn't know the answer, and so I would give them hints - anything to prompt them to remember what they had studied
- f. But what I found was that they couldn't remember what they hadn't learned
- g. The Holy Spirit can't remind us of what we've never learned in the first place
- h. When I was in seminary getting my Masters, I remember the professors telling us over and over again that we would be overwhelmed with all the knowledge - they called it trying to drink from a fire hydrant!
- i. So what they told us was that the best thing we could learn was to learn where to find what we couldn't remember - what books to go to, people to talk to, etc
- j. That's what Jesus is telling his disciples - and us

- k. "There are a lot of things to remember - important things - and yet I know you'll forget. So I'm sending the Helper to remind you."
- l. The question for us is this: have we learned anything to be forgotten and reminded of?

3. He transforms us

- a. This third thing that the Helper does is huge, and honestly, it may be the most important
- b. So many want to take the power and use it on others, but the biggest work of the Holy Spirit is an inside job.
- c. Let me show you how the inside job works in 2 Corinthians 3
 - We're going to focus on verses 17-18, but first let's check the context
 - There's a lot in the previous verses about glory and veils, and Paul is referring back to a time when Moses would meet with God and his face would shine so much that he had to put a veil over it because others couldn't be around him
 - There's a lot there, but can we simplify it by saying that there was a barrier between Moses and people?
 - Often, we make the Helper a barrier
 - We become street corner preachers and weird worshipers and blame it on the Holy Spirit, but look at verse 16 - when we turn to the Lord (something that can only happen in response to the Helper, see 1 Corinthians 12:3), that barrier between us and others is removed
 - The Helper transforms us from captive to freed and from closed to open
 - There is one very simple reason: when the Helper transforms us to look like Jesus, we won't live hidden behind a veil that Jesus came to tear away
 - Jesus brings people near God and near one another, and the Holy Spirit does the same
- d. Why does the Helper transform us?
- e. To answer that, we need to learn the fourth thing the Helper does.

4. He leads us

- a. The Helper isn't about transforming us so that we can sit in a safe church and admire what a great job he's done with each of us!
- b. "Oh, you're the best dancer!"
- c. "My, how well you sing!"
- d. "No one is as anointed as you when it comes to unlocking the deep secrets of the scriptures!"
- e. He transforms us so that we can be used in the transformation of others.
- f. That's the Big Idea! **The Helper transforms us into transformers!**
- g. Everything the Helper does is for the purpose of leading us - and others - somewhere, or more specifically, to Someone!
- h. John 16:13 shows us that the Helper will lead us to 2 things:
 - the truth, which he uses to prepare us for...
 - the future

The Landing

Let me close with a story that I read this past week that I think illustrates this perfectly.

[“The conversion of Jasper Toe”, p. 115, **Drawing the Circle**, by Mark Batterson]

The Helper is a transformer, and just like the song that the kids danced to at the very beginning says, his presence changes places and people

But he uses us to do it, and so he has to transform us into transformers first

Just like the missionaries in that story. If they had not been taught and reminded and transformed by the Holy Spirit on the inside first, they never would have been open to being led by him off that ship.

This morning, we want to end with some time to allow you and the Helper to do some work on the inside, because as we'll see in the coming weeks, he is getting ready to send as carriers of his transforming power.

He transforms us into transformers.