

## **Sermon 5-17 and 21, 2017 The Holy Spirit in You John 14:15-21**

Dear Adopted by the Lord:

### **Forever Family**

Jessica....

- She is an artist
- She is smart and responsible
- She is active in soccer and loves to ride her bike
- She loves pizza and the color pink
- She perseveres in her school work and is ready for....her “forever family”

Laura...

- Was oldest of four children
- At age 14 she and her siblings were removed from her mother’s home for safety reasons
- She moved around to 6 different foster homes over the next 4 years
- Finally she was adopted by her “forever family”

Others are waiting for their “forever family” ....real names of real children

- Emily
- Michael
- Donald
- Olivia
- Amber

They are waiting to be adopted.

### **“...But you received the Spirit of adoption...” Romans 4:15**

As believers we have been adopted by our Heavenly Father. We have our “forever family”

The Holy Spirit will be with you because you are part of God’s “forever family”

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26

## I. Jesus promises you the Holy Spirit

A. The disciples felt like orphans when these words were spoken by Jesus.

1. Jesus is preparing his disciples for his departure

He is with his disciples celebrating the Passover/Lord’s Supper in the Upper Room. Soon Jesus will be betrayed, beaten and nailed to the cross. Soon he would die and his physical presence would not longer be with them.

2. Jesus would leave them physically...but they would not be left as orphans

Still, the disciples felt the fear of being all alone...like orphans without a home...without a family.

B. We may feel alone at times

An elderly woman in a care facility rocks alone in her room at Christmas. No cards, no calls, no carols.

A young wife discovers romantic emails sent by her husband to another woman.

After 25 years on the factory line, a worker finds a termination notice taped to his locker.

People have been abandoned by family, a spouse, an employer. People have been abandoned through the loss of a loved one and or of one’s health.

We know how precarious life may be.

Larry Crab, a Christian counselor says: “The Church should be the safest place on earth.” He meant that the local church should be...

- A place where people trust each other to share their burdens
- A place where God uses us to encourage others

C. Jesus understands our struggles with loneliness

Hebrews 4:15 “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are ---yet was without sin.”

Hear Jesus’ words to you and his disciples in John 14:16-18 from our text today.  
Read.

### **Another – Just like Myself**

He says he will send “another” ----just like Myself

- The Greek word for Spirit in the Bible is “Encourager” - “come alongside”
- The Holy Spirit brought you and me to faith - I Cor 12:3
- The Holy Spirit keeps you and me in faith John 15:1ff
- The Holy Spirit will be our helper in times of need...weakness and loneliness

Romans 8:26 “In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness...the Spirit intercedes for the saints.”

V17 Jesus says we have “helper” - one who will set up a permanent residence in us and provide all the help we need.

### **HELPER - Holy Spirit**

So, how does the Holy Spirit help me....

- Imparts hope Ro 15
- Teaches Jn 14
- Communicates joy Gal 5
- Comforts Acts 9
- Directs our way in godliness Isa 30:21
- Guides us in truth Jn 16
- Directs our decisions Acts 15
- Reveals to us things of God I Cor 2

D. We are not orphans John 14:18

Yes, we have our moments of sin and suffer like everyone else...

- Depression
- Strained and/or broken marriages
- Raising children with ups and downs
- Mental and emotional disorders
- Disappointment after disappointment

We face the same problems as an unbeliever but there is 1 big difference: We have the Holy Spirit.

We have the abiding presence of the Lord:

- Romans 8:9 We are controlled by the Spirit who lives in us
- I Cor 6:19 Our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you
- I Cor 12:13 We were all given the one Spirit to drink

Sometimes even though we know all this we still feel weak and alone but Jesus says “I will come to you...”

We all know people who have been devastated by...

- Cancer
- Accidental deaths
- Terminal illness
- Alzheimer’s
- Stillborn children

But we as believers don’t have to go through it all alone. In Christ we have the Comforter...the Holy Spirit guiding and leading us. We have His help and strength through His Word and His Church.

We are not alone in Christ for we have a “forever family”

**Galatians 6:2 “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”**

What do we all need to hear?

- I love you from the Lord
- I forgive you from the Lord
- You are accepted by Me from the Lord

As we receive these messages from the Lord, we in turn say to others in Christ

- I love you with the Lord's love
- I forgive you with the Lord's forgiveness
- I accept you with the Lord's grace and mercy

We have the Holy Spirit, Jesus will never leave us. We are part of God's "forever family"

II. Jesus promises us His eternal presence vv19-21 READ

The Holy Spirit will not be taken away from them or us.

A. Jesus must leave his disciples physically vv19-21

Jesus makes it clear that His relationship with His disciples will continue even though physically He will not be present with them. They will continue to have an intimate fellowship with Jesus.

John 14:23 "Jesus replied: If anyone loves Me, he will obey my teaching.

**My Father will love him and we will come to him and make our home with him."**

The key to our life is Jesus' eternal presence.

B. How satisfied are you with life?

Tom Brady of the New England Patriots was interviewed on CBS 60 minutes. He is the QB of the team that won the Super Bowl this past February. He was asked if he was satisfied with life after...

- Winning 5 Super Bowls since 2001

- Earning millions of dollars
- Marrying a supermodel

He replied: “I am still looking for that something that will satisfy me.”

People, places and things in this world will not bring real satisfaction...because these things cannot satisfy the soul. Only Jesus satisfies.

C. What we have in Christ is our satisfaction

\* we have forgiveness + eternal life + reason to live and serve + support from the Lord and fellow believers + never be abandoned or forsaken

\* presence of the Holy Spirit will transform our lives Galatians 5:22 which gives us the “Fruit of the Spirit” which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Philip Yancey says: “No longer are we cosmic orphans inhabiting a speck of a planet in an insignificant galaxy. We are central characters in a drama involving not merely now but time beyond, not this world only but in a world to come.”

On the cross Jesus shouted **“My God, My God why have you forsaken Me!”**

- He shouted this so we would never have to
- He suffered so we would never have to
- He was forsaken by God so we will never be

Jesus said: **“I will be with you always...even to the ends of the earth.”** Mt 28:20

- We will not be left alone
- We will not be forsaken
- We will not be left to our own devices or wisdom or strength

We have the fellowship of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.