

St. Paul's Dorking Small Groups. May 1st 2005

God's Gifts - the Gift of His Presence

The gift of the Holy Spirit – guide and comforter

John 14.15-27



Word: Key points from Sunday's sermon

Three images for you to consider: the Compass, the Map, and the Tour Guide.
How is the Spirit like each of these?

Jesus said: 'He is the Spirit of Truth' John 14:17 and 'Obey what I command' John 14:21.

As a compass or, to be more techno, the GPS system we all dream of (!), he points directly to truth.. wherever we stand he will point us right back to Jesus. If we follow his instructions like a GPS he will take us straight to our destination of Jesus, if we don't, he will continue to direct us to Jesus until we get there.

Jesus said 'I am the Way the Truth and the life'. John 14: 6

As a map the Spirit will show and will 'teach us all things' John 14:26 ~ 'all things' refers to the whole revelation of Christ, and of course encompasses all Scripture. A map shows us the way and it also shows us obstacles to that route. It will therefore show you the way to negotiate those obstacles. That is what Scripture does, and the Spirit interprets scripture, i.e. the map, so that we can use it to reach the destination of truth ~ the dwelling place of God. We can be soaked in Scripture but not know the truth, we need the Spirit to reveal/guide us into/ teach us that truth. He is our interpreter. So we need to wait on him when we read it.

Jesus said: 'when the Spirit of truth comes he will guide in to all truth. John 16:13

Like a guide to another land (the land of truth, the Kingdom of God) the Spirit will teach us to live in a new way in a new culture... images such as new language/ new perspective/old habits die hard/slow learners comes to mind. He will act with grace and without coercion to help us to take on Christ, to dwell in Christ and to be indwelt by the Spirit. This is about a personal relationship, (verse 23) we need to obey the spirit as He teaches us to change and to become 'little Christs' – Christians.

He will go with us on this journey and he will comfort us (Counselor may be translated 'comforter'). Comfort = 'with strength'. So he strengthens us for this journey. We must therefore be close to him. As we draw close to God so God draws close to us. This is so with the Spirit of God. We receive his conviction as we draw closer, conviction of sin which must be confessed and repented, and conviction of the truth which must be followed and sought.



Witness: Questions to discuss

- 1 How did you find North /Christ? i.e. how has the Spirit pointed you to Jesus as Truth?
- 2 What has led you away from the truth? Looking back, recount how the Spirit led you back as a GPS system might (U turns/ same route back/different route back) etc
- 3 Are there absolutes in society today that you can recognize? Why has post modernism arisen (the pick and mix approach to life, there are no absolutes and therefore right and wrong are as you perceive them)?
- 4 How would you explain to someone who cannot understand the possibility of certain truth that Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever, he does not change and will always be faithful?.. are there any examples in society to compare this truth with?
- 5 How has the Spirit guided you? 'How has he spoken'? What has helped: the advice of others; the answers to specific prayers; circumstances coming together; a word from scripture; a word of knowledge; a prophecy; inner conviction.. ? Anything else?
- 6 What can you do today to draw closer to the Spirit?