The Comforter - Which Is the Holy Spirit

By Daniel Deininger

May 20th, 2023 - Kalispell, Montana

Introduction:

In just a week we will be gathering for Pentecost, celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit which Jesus said he would send - a spirit of truth, and also a spirit that he called the Comforter.

We live in a world of darkness…

> John 3:18 NLT - "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.
> John 3:19 NLT - And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but **people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil.**
> John 3:20 NLT - All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed.
> John 3:21 NLT - But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants."

> Ephesians 6:12 NLT - For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against **evil rulers and authorities** of the unseen world, against mighty powers **in this dark world, and against evil spirits** in the heavenly places.

The world is in turmoil…

> Romans 8:22 NKJV - For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

> This was written by Paul.. in the first century. How much more is the creation groaning now?

> And that is how we feel, too. We are groaning and as the King James Version puts it, “travailing in pain”.

> > Romans 8:22 KJV - For we know that the whole creation groaneth and **travaileth in pain** together until now.

> We also “sigh and cry” because of all the evil we see in the world today…

> > Ezekiel 9:4 KJV - And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that **sigh and that cry** for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Note: We may feel that times are worse now than ever before.. And for us in the USA we are seeing our nation go from receiving many blessings in the period following WW2 to now seeing the curses this nation is experiencing for turning our backs to God. ie eliminating prayer in school, removing the bible from school, teaching evolution, the decisions that have allowed for millions of abortions, and now teaching things contrary to nature regarding men and

Note, continued…
women. Rather than holding God, and Christ in high esteem and respecting those that follow them, the nation as a whole mocks God and those who follow Him. So we see our nation experiencing the curses that God foretold would come to those who don't obey Him. However, the majority of the rest of the world has NOT had the positive benefits of living in a nation founded on biblical principles, and has been in much worse condition. The creation truly is groaning and in travail looking forward to the soon coming return of Jesus Christ and "birthing" of Kingdom of God and the resurrection of all saints into God's family.

Specific Purpose of Today's Message:

Today we are going to look at how God the Father and Jesus Christ have sent us the Comforter - which is the Holy Spirit - to help us and to strengthen us, empowering us to not only be able to cope with the evil and darkness, but to be a light, an example of a better way that is coming.

Need?
We need the help of the Comforter - which is God's Holy Spirit in order to cope in a world of darkness, that is groaning as a woman in childbirth.

The Promise:

John 14:16 KJV - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another **Comforter**, that he [it] may abide with you for ever;

John 14:26 KJV - But the **Comforter**, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he [it] shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

First, God calls us out and opens our minds to see the truth.

Colossians 1:1 NLT - This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy.
Colossians 1:2 NLT - We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are **faithful** brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you **grace and peace**.
Colossians 1:3 NLT - We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Colossians 1:4 NLT - For we have heard of **your faith** in Christ Jesus and **your love** for all of God's people,
Colossians 1:5 NLT - which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation **ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News.**
Colossians 1:6 NLT - This same Good News that came to you is going out all over the world. It is bearing fruit everywhere by changing lives, just as it changed your lives from the day you first heard and understood the truth about God's wonderful grace.

Colossians 1:7 NLT - You learned about the Good News from Epaphras, our beloved co-worker. He is Christ's faithful servant, and he is helping us on your behalf.
Colossians 1:8 NLT - He has told us about the love for others **that the Holy Spirit has given you.**
Colossians 1:9 NLT - So we have not stopped praying for you since we first heard about you. **We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding.**
Colossians 1:10 NLT - Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit. All the while, you will grow as you learn to know God better and better.

Second, the Holy Spirit (the Comforter) strengthens you

Colossians 1:11 NLT - **We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy,**

> 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT - For God has not given us **a spirit** of fear and timidity, but **of power,** love, and self-discipline.

Colossians 1:12 NLT - always thanking the Father. He has enabled you to share in the inheritance that belongs to his people, who live in the light.
Colossians 1:13 NLT - **For he has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness** and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son,
Colossians 1:14 NLT - who purchased our freedom and forgave our sins.

John 15:26 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 [it] shall testify of me:

John 16:7 KJV - Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the **Comforter** will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him [it] unto you.

What Pauls says about the power of God's Holy Spirit and His love for us:

Romans 8:1 NLT - So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.
Romans 8:2 NLT - And because you belong to him, **the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.**
Romans 8:3 NLT - The law of Moses was unable to save us because of the weakness of our sinful nature. So God did what the law could not do. He sent his own Son in a body like the bodies we sinners have. And in that body God declared an end to sin's control over us by giving his Son as a sacrifice for our sins.
Romans 8:4 NLT - He did this so that the just requirement of the law would be fully satisfied for us, who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit.
Romans 8:5 NLT - Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but **those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit.**
Romans 8:6 NLT - So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. **But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace.**

Romans 8:7 NLT - For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will.
Romans 8:8 NLT - That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.
Romans 8:9 NLT - But you are not controlled by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them do not belong to him at all.)
Romans 8:10 NLT - And Christ lives within you, so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.
Romans 8:11 NLT - **The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you.**
Romans 8:12 NLT - Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.
Romans 8:13 NLT - For if you live by its dictates, you will die. But if **through the power of the Spirit you put to death the deeds of your sinful nature, you will live.**
Romans 8:14 NLT - For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:15 NLT - So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father."
Romans 8:16 NLT - For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.
Romans 8:17 NLT - And since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.
Romans 8:18 NLT - Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.
Romans 8:19 NLT - For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are.
Romans 8:20 NLT - Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope,
Romans 8:21 NLT - the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.
Romans 8:22 NLT - For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.
Romans 8:23 NLT - **And we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and suffering.** We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as his adopted children, including the new bodies he has promised us.
Romans 8:24 NLT - We were given this hope when we were saved. (If we already have something, we don't need to hope for it.
Romans 8:25 NLT - But if we look forward to something we don't yet have, we must wait patiently and confidently.)
Romans 8:26 NLT - And the **Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness.** For example, we don't know what God wants us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.
Romans 8:27 NLT - And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.
Romans 8:28 NLT - And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.
Romans 8:29 NLT - For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

Romans 8:30 NLT - And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.
Romans 8:31 NLT - What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? **If God is for us, who can ever be against us?**
Romans 8:32 NLT - Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else?
Romans 8:33 NLT - Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one--for God himself has given us right standing with himself.
Romans 8:34 NLT - Who then will condemn us? No one--for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.
Romans 8:35 NLT - Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?
Romans 8:36 NLT - (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.")
Romans 8:37 NLT - **No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ,** who loved us.
Romans 8:38 NLT - And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love.
Romans 8:39 NLT - No power in the sky above or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion

What a blessing it is to have the Holy Spirit to Comfort us as we live in these challenging times just prior to the return of Jesus to this earth.

And it is also a blessing to have all the fruits of the Holy Spirit in our lives, too:
Galatians 5:22 NLT - But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**
Galatians 5:23 NLT - **gentleness, and self-control.** There is no law against these things!

The lack of God's spirit in this world is producing a dangerous, toxic environment. But with God's Holy Spirit we can endure (patience) with the joy that comes from knowing God is in charge and will soon send His son Jesus the Christ back to this world, which also gives us peace of mind.

As we prepare for Pentecost let's focus on how important the Holy Spirit is, what a blessing it is, and how important it will be for all mankind to receive it in the future!