

Abiding in The Vine – Part 1

The Anointing: How the Holy Spirit Teaches Us to Remain in Him

1. Brief recap from last two meetings

- We talked about obedience, the weapons of our warfare and being conformed to Christ.
- We also recapped what we are to put on and what we are to put off. Can you remember what some of those things were?
- I had planned to do a deep dive into our Old sinful nature vs. our New Nature.
Old sinful nature: [Unrenewed self] - [The entire nature of man without the Holy Spirit] [What we were prior to salvation] - [**The old man**]
- New Nature: [Born Again] - [New Creation] - [Renewed in knowledge] [In Union with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] - [**The New Man**] ...but I got completely sidetracked with **1 Jn. 2:20, 27-28**. The Holy Spirit showed me something I never saw before and I am excited to dive into this.
- This is going to be a short series of studies on "Abiding in The Vine" **Jn. 15:1-17**, however this first study is going to focus on The Holy Spirit because as we will find out, The Holy Spirit (*The Helper*) is key to abiding.

2. The Anointing (talk about the audience that John was writing to)

- a) Let's start with reading **1 Jn. 2:20, 27-28 (NLT, NASB, AMP)**. Note: All three translations end the verse by linking the Spirit's teaching to abiding/remaining in Christ (e.g., "remain in fellowship with Christ" in **NLT**) i.e. The Holy Spirit teaches us how to abide in Christ! 😊
- First, I want to talk about how the "anointing" mentioned in this passage is the Holy spirit.
- v. **2:20** – "You have an "anointing" from the Holy One." The "Holy One" here is Christ (we can see this in **Jn. 6:69** as one example). So, we see here that Jesus is the giver. The "anointing" is something given by Him (Christ) that enables spiritual discernment. This is the context of this passage. This leads to the question, what is the "anointing"? **1 Jn. 2:27** says this anointing abides in believers and this same anointing teaches all things and is true and is not a lie and will teach believers how to abide in Christ.

Here John describes the "anointing" as:

- **Received** from Christ
 - **Abiding** in the believer.
 - **Teaching** all things.
 - **Truthful**, not deceptive.
- b) We can see this same description in **John 14:16-17, 26, 15:26-27, 16:8-11, 13-15 (NLT, NKJV)**. Notice: The Spirit **Abides, teaches, and guides**. Identical functions to the "anointing" mentioned in **1 Jn. 2:27**. This is how we know that the "anointing" referenced in **1 Jn. 2:20** and **2:27** is the Holy Spirit.
- c) Also, something very interesting about **1 Jn. 2:20, 27**: Let's look at the Greek word for: "**The Anointing**" *χρῖσμα* (*chrisma*) - Meaning: Literally, "an anointing" — something applied, like oil, but in the NT figurative sense it is a spiritual consecration or endowment.
- d) **Strong's G5545**: From *chriō* (to anoint). In the NT, this word "chrisma" occurs only in **1 Jn. 2:20** and **1 Jn. 2:27**.

- **Lexical Note:** In secular Greek, it could mean ointment or smearing; in the NT, John uses it figuratively of the Holy Spirit given to believers.

- e) Now let's read this in full context: **1 Jn. 2:18-29 (NLT, AMP)** – John was warning the believers about false teachers and how the Holy Spirit acts as an internal teacher and guide, protecting against deception and illuminating truth. John was encouraging the believers that they have the Holy Spirit in them which will teach them truth from lies and will also teach them how to abide in Christ, i.e. how “to remain in fellowship with Christ.”
- f) What has excited me about **1 Jn. 2:27** is understanding the fact that the Holy Spirit will teach me how to abide in Christ. I need to allow the Holy Spirit to teach me how to abide in Christ, how to “remain in fellowship with Him”.
- g) One scripture that I struggled with as an early Christian was **Gal. 5:16** “walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.” Which led me to constantly ask God, “How do I walk in the Spirit?” **Abiding in Christ is the answer!** ...and the Holy Spirit helps us abide in Christ. This is the answer to “how do I walk in the Spirit?” that I have been looking for.
- h) Note in **Rom. 8:14 (NLT, AMP)** “...all who are allowing themselves to be led by the Spirit.” We need to “allow” the Holy Spirit to teach how to abide in Christ.
- i) This also ties into **2 Peter 1:3-4 (NKJV, NLT)** which talks about “*partaking in His divine nature*” which I have talked about in earlier studies. We can see in vs. 3 that “*God has given us everything we need to live a Godly life.*” (which includes the Holy Spirit that teaches us how to abide in Christ) And that we have “through the knowledge of Him” (NLT) “*received all of this by coming to know Him.*” Receiving the Holy Spirit is an integral part of “coming to know Him.” We can also see in **1 Peter 1:3** that He has given us believers great and precious promises and that these promises enable us to partake in His divine nature. Salvation and receiving the Holy Spirit are some of these great and precious promises!
- j) I feel this ties in nicely with **1 Cor. 2:10-12 (NLT)**. Specifically, vs. 12 “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God*”. We “believers,” have been given great and precious promises which allow us to partake in His divine nature. The Holy Spirit in us believers, as a result of salvation by grace through faith in Christ, is one of these great and precious promises.

There is a progression that emerges here for me: - *How do I walk in the Spirit? Abide in Christ.* -> *How do I abide in Christ? Partake of His divine nature.* -> *How do I partake in His divine nature? Through the great and precious promises, He has given to believers.* -> *The Holy Spirit is one of these great and precious promises that is given to the believer and we see that in 1 Jn. 2:27, the Holy Spirit teaches us how to Abide in Christ. If you are abiding in Christ you are walking in the Spirit and as a result will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh. Abiding is a free-will choice.*

Next study: When did you “believer,” receive the Holy Spirit and more on abiding!

Homework: Read all of John Chapters 14, 15 and 16 with focusing in the role of the Holy Spirit and dig into John 15:1-4 (The True Vine) which is talking about abiding in Christ. Also Read all of 1 John Chapters 1-3.

Deeper study:

Notes for reference:

A little background on the audience John was writing to in 1 John:

1 John is a general letter in the New Testament, not addressed to a specific individual or church by name, unlike some other epistles such as those by Paul. Instead, it was written to a community of early Christians, believers in one or more congregations facing internal challenges from false teachings and heresies. This context suggests the recipients were part of a broader network of house churches dealing with early doctrinal divisions in the late first century AD. These recipients were already familiar with the gospel and apostolic teachings but needed encouragement to persevere amid false teaching, doctrinal threats, and moral laxity promoted by "false prophets", false “teachers” or "antichrists" who had caused a schism by seceding from the group.

Key Characteristics of the Audience

- **Demographic and Background:** The readers were faithful Christians, possibly including a mix of Jewish and Gentile believers, though some historical interpretations suggest a primarily Gentile audience who had converted without prior Jewish ties. They were described as "children" or "dear friends" in the letter, indicating a pastoral, familial tone (i.e. family) from John, who had a close, established relationship with them. The community was depleted and disturbed by the departure of heretics, leading to feelings of inferiority and doubts about their faith.
- **Purpose and Context for the Audience:** The letter aimed to reassure these struggling believers of their salvation, urge them to love one another, test spirits/teachings, confess sins, and reject the influence of traveling false teachers who were still attempting to proselytize (convert or attempt to convert (someone) from one religion, belief, or opinion to another.). It emphasized fellowship with God and Christ, providing tests for genuine faith to help the audience discern truth amid apostasy and heresy (false teachings).

Summary of the intent of this study:

At salvation we received the finished work of the cross (all of the blessings of the New Covenant), yet we need to be intentionally focused on Jesus and obedient to the Holy Spirit to enjoy and live the abundance we have received." But that is not the end of the story. We don't receive the finished work of the cross and have all we need to live a Godly life and then just chill out and do nothing. We Partake in His divine nature through being intentionally focused on Jesus and obedient to the Holy Spirit. The "partaking" is an intentional free-will choice.

Additional breakdown of the Holy Spirit references in 1 John:

Verses Describing the Holy Spirit in John 14, 15, and 16

NKJV

John 14:16-17

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another **Helper**, that **He may abide with you forever**— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

(Describes the Holy Spirit as a Helper who remains forever, indwells believers, and serves as the Spirit of truth.)

John 14:26

"But the **Helper**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**"

(Highlights the Holy Spirit's role in teaching all things and reminding believers of Jesus' words.)

John 15:26-27

"But when the **Helper** comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, **He will testify of Me.** And you also will bear witness, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

(The Holy Spirit, as the Spirit of truth, will testify about Jesus, and the disciples must also testify.)

NLT

John 14:16-17

"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another **Advocate**, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who **leads into all truth**. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you."

(Describes the Holy Spirit as an Advocate who remains forever, leads into truth, and indwells believers.)

John 14:26

"But when the Father sends the **Advocate** as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—**he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.**"

(Highlights the Holy Spirit's role as a representative who teaches everything and reminds believers of Jesus' teachings.)

John 15:26-27

"But I will send you the **Advocate**—the Spirit of truth. He will come to you from the Father and **will testify all about me**. And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry."

(The Holy Spirit, as the Advocate and Spirit of truth, will testify about Jesus, and the disciples are called to testify as well.)

John 16:7

"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the **Helper** will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."

(Jesus' departure enables the coming of the Helper, whom he will send.)

John 16:8-11

"And when He has come, **He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:** of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged."

(The Holy Spirit will convict the world regarding sin, righteousness, and judgment.)

John 16:13-15

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth;** for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and **He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.** All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that **He will take of Mine and declare it to you.**"

(The Holy Spirit guides into all truth, speaks what he hears, reveals the future, glorifies Jesus, and declares what he receives from Jesus.)

John 16:7

"But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the **Advocate** won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you."

(Jesus' departure is necessary for the Advocate to come, whom he will send.)

John 16:8-11

"And when he comes, **he will convict the world of its sin, and of God's righteousness, and of the coming judgment.** The world's sin is that it refuses to believe in me. Righteousness is available because I go to the Father, and you will see me no more. Judgment will come because the ruler of this world has already been judged."

(The Holy Spirit will convict the world of sin, God's righteousness, and the coming judgment.)

John 16:13-15

"When the Spirit of truth comes, **he will guide you into all truth.** He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. **He will tell you about the future. He will bring me glory by telling you whatever he receives from me.** All that belongs to the Father is mine; this is why I said, '**The Spirit will tell you whatever he receives from me.**'"

(The Holy Spirit guides into all truth, speaks what he hears, reveals the future, glorifies Jesus, and shares what he receives from Jesus.)

These verses from John 14, 15, and 16 (NKJV and NLT) cover all instances where Jesus directly discusses the Holy Spirit's roles with his disciples.

Note: Only KJV and AMP describe the Holy Spirit as the comforter.

Jn. 14:26 KJV "But 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.**"

Jn. 14:26 AMP "But the **Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor—Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby)**, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], **He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you.**"

Another interesting note is that in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, explicit descriptions of the Holy Spirit's role by Jesus are less detailed compared to John 14–16. The specific description of the Holy Spirit as a "Helper" (NKJV) or "Advocate" (NLT), using the Greek term Parakletos, is found only in the Gospel of John (14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7). In Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Jesus does not use this term. However, in Mark 13:11 and Luke 12:11-12, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as assisting believers by providing words or teaching them what to say during persecution, which conveys a helping role conceptually similar to John's "Helper" but without the explicit term Parakletos. These passages suggest a guidance function, but the unique designation of the Holy Spirit as "Helper" or "Advocate" is exclusive to John.

Thus, the explicit description of the Holy Spirit as the "Helper" (or "Advocate") is only found in the Gospel of John in the New Testament Gospels.

So combining all of the above descriptions of the Holy Spirit we see that the Holy Spirit is described as and having the function of:

The Holy Spirit is described as:

- **Helper**
- **Advocate**
- **Comforter**
- **Intercessor—Counselor**
- **Strengtheners**
- **Standby**

The Function of The Holy Spirit in believers:

- **Abides in the believer forever, leads/guides believers into all truth**
- **Will teach all things and will bring to remembrance all the things which the Savior had taught**
- **Will testify of Christ**
- **Will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of the coming judgment**
- **Will guide/lead you into all truth**
- **Will tell you about the future**
- **Will bring Christ glory by telling you whatever he (The Holy Spirit) receives from Christ**
- **Will tell believers whatever he (The Holy Spirit) receives from Christ.**

Jn. 14:26 commentary: "14:26 But the Holy Spirit would reveal more. He was sent by the Father in the name of Christ on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit came in Christ's name in the sense that He came to represent Christ's interests on earth. He did not come to glorify Himself but to draw men and women to the Savior. "He will teach you all things," said the Lord. He did this first of all through the spoken ministry of the apostles; then through the written Word of God which we have today. The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance all the things which the Savior had taught. Actually, the Lord Jesus seems to have presented in germ form all the teaching which is developed by the Holy Spirit in the rest of the NT."

In the commentary above, "germ" refers to the origin or seed of an idea, the initial stage of something that will later develop. The sentence suggests that Jesus' teachings in the Gospels contain the fundamental or basic elements that are later expanded upon and explained more fully by the Holy Spirit in the rest of the New Testament.