

Peace John 14:23–31 Pentecost June 9, 2019

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 that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. John 14:26-27

Dear friends in Christ, we've been buying cars recently. My son got a job in Cedar Rapids, and my daughter is taking courses at the community college, and they both needed ways to get around. So we've been buying cars.

Now if I told you that I saw an ad on Craigslist came up and wired them the money to pick it up, sight unseen, that I'd be by to pick it up in a couple days. You might tell me I'm a little gullible. But some dealers aren't much better. When we went to a dealer who said in his policy that no cars are inspected or even assured of running, we wanted to be careful. We would like to see a car, test it out, make sure there is nothing obvious wrong with it. We want to be able to take it to a mechanic and make sure he says there is nothing wrong with it. We want a warranty. We want all of these things to agree that that car is going to run and be a good buy. We want a guarantee, even when we don't have reason to doubt the car's value. We want to have peace with our decision.

And today is Pentecost and today Jesus speaks about the Holy Spirit. And we are right to celebrate that the Holy Spirit comes with power today. But it can be hard for us to understand exactly what the spirit does. After all, if I asked you the message of the bible, what would you tell me? Would you say, "Jesus died to save us from our sins?" Would you say, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, so that whosoever believes in him would not perish but have eternal life?" That is a good summary, but looking at it, where is the Holy Spirit? Why do we celebrate the spirit today.

Jesus talks about his death today. He says he is going away, and that the prince of this world is coming. But he doesn't speak of his going as a payment of sins. He speaks of assurance. Jesus says that the devil, the prince of this world, has no power over Him, but He is obedient to the father and the world would see he loves the father. And the father showed that love of his son when he raised him up from death and raised him to his right hand. God raised Jesus, true God but just as surely true man, over death, over the evil one, and to his right hand of power. His death is not the end but the opening of heaven to men. That is assurance. That is peace.

But that message seems cold in his absence. During those 3 days, the disciples mourn. When the women report, they wonder. During the next week, Thomas doubts. Remembering his denial, Peter mourns. And these are the ones he was with the most. They need assurance as Jesus rises to the right hand of the Father, not just that God dwells with man in Jesus but that he dwells with them as well. They need peace. So Christ ascends to give them this assurance. He ascends to give them peace. And not the peace the world gives - where we might have peace - until the next war. Lower taxes - until they are raised. Where all peace is temporary. No his peace is greater in scope and in time. He gives life eternally.

And he doesn't do it halfway and leaving us wondering. He comes to send the Holy Spirit, not just from him but also from the Father. And what does that spirit do? "he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you." He reminds us of what Jesus said and did. Jesus doesn't speak at cross purposes. As he ascends in the flesh to tell us flesh will ascend, he sends the spirit to assure us this promise is for us. Not just the 12 or the 120 of Pentecost or the 5000 at one of his greatest teachings - but all men who share his flesh, all he sends his spirit to. And the Spirit has no new message, but say what Jesus said, that in Christ the father's grace extends to all men. And to each man as the spirit testifies. Christ's

death is for all men and Christ's death is for me. Christ ascends for all men and Christ ascends for me. That is peace.

And he goes further. As the spirit works in our lives, as the wind blows, there is more assurance, more peace. The Spirit works in us that we work in the kingdom. We have further assurance of the k. Not just Jesus in his death, resurrection, and ascension. Not just his words. Not just the spirit. And certainly not just our works. But God who controls all things has them work to give his peace. Not like a car that is ok but that little whine. God works in all things to give his peace.

So hear the Spirit today as he speaks God's word. Hear the spirit today as he calls you to see God clearly and proclaim what he has done. Let the peace of God richly given in word and spirit, rest upon you, that you may share that peace with others. amen.