The Holy Spirit, Lesson 3

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR ADVOCATE

John 14:15–31

Key Verse: 14:26

1. What shows the disciples’ loyalty to Jesus? (6:64–69; 11:16; 13:22) How had they reacted to the news that he was leaving? (13:36–37; 14:1a,27b) Note the repetition of “If you love me” (14:15,21,23,24,28). What proves we love Jesus? (15,21a,23a) How did Jesus express this same love for the Father? (31) What should we obey? (13:34–35)
2. What great thing would happen to the disciples if they obeyed Jesus’ command? (16–17) Note how he repeated this (21,23). Why do we have to obey God’s commands before receiving the Holy Spirit? Note the example of Saul (1Sa10:6; 15:22; 16:14), and the early church (Ac1:4–5,8; 2:1–4). How does this principle of obedience apply to us?
3. In verse 16 what word does Jesus use to describe the Holy Spirit? What would he do for them? (16b) Note how Jesus repeatedly calls the Holy Spirit “the Advocate” (16,26; 15:26; 16:7). To understand this word (in Greek: “Paraclete”), see Ac9:31; 2Co1:4; Php2:1. Why did the disciples (and why do we) need Holy Spirit’s encouragement?
4. How else does Jesus describe the Holy Spirit? (17a; cf.15:26; 16:13) How do the world/ the disciples respond to him? (17) What did Jesus predict? (18–19) What relationship would this give them? (20) How would the Holy Spirit make this real? (7:39) Why could the Holy Spirit not come until then? How does Jesus extend his promise to us? (21)
5. What does it mean that Jesus would “show himself”? (21b; cf. 2Co3:18) How did he answer Judas’ question? (22–24) What does his use of the words “we” and “our” in verse 23b suggest? What does “make our home with them” mean? (1Jn1:3; 2Co13:14)
6. Read verses 25–26. What did Jesus say the Advocate will do for us? (see also 1Jn2:20,27) Why did the disciples need to be reminded of everything Jesus said, and why do we? What other effect does the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, have on us? (27)