

The Helper

By Betty Harstad

The Bible says that the Holy Spirit has many attributes, one of which is as our Helper – *parakletos* – one called alongside to help. Jesus spoke to His disciples about the Holy Spirit that would be sent from the Father after His resurrection: “*But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness about Me*” (John 15:26 ESV). “*And when He comes, He will convict the world of sin and righteousness and judgment*” (John 16:8).

And so did this promise really happen? We can look at Acts to see that Peter and the other apostles were enabled to become convincing witnesses of the eternal life offered by Jesus Christ after the Holy Spirit was poured out. Many of the people were convicted and were “pricked to the heart” after hearing why Jesus was crucified and resurrected. “*And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sin and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’*” (Acts 2:38-39).

For future generations, the apostles (of whom Paul became one) were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write several books on the Gospel of Salvation, Sanctification, prophecy and warnings regarding false teachers. Jesus had promised that the Helper, the Holy Spirit, would teach all that was needed: “*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*” (John 14:25). “*When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth*” (John 16:13).

We can be so grateful for each word written for us and for the Holy Spirit Who illuminates the truth of it to our hearts and minds so we can be changed into His likeness. “*But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord the Spirit*” (2 Corinthians 3:18).