

Sermon Series: *The Person & the Work of the Holy Spirit*

The Helper Will Help You Remember All That I Said

John 14:25-27 (ESV)

25 *“These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.*

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 that I have said to you.*

27 *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.*

We are in a season of studying the person and the work of the Holy Spirit, whom we also refer to as the Third Person of the Trinity. We refer to Him in this way, not because He is of lesser importance than the other two persons, but because in the history of redemption, the primacy of His work has followed after the work of the other two persons of the Trinity.

John Owen, in his 1674 tome on the Holy Spirit, stated that in the history of redemption there are three major divisions of time that progressively reveal the three persons of the Trinity. In the Old Testament we view the majesty and supremacy of God the Father over all the impotent idols of the ancient world. Following this, in the first century we see the supremacy and triumph of God the Son over sin and death through His victorious resurrection from the dead. And finally, in this age in which we live, we now have God’s supremacy manifested to us through the presence of God the Holy Spirit who was poured out after Jesus ascended into heaven.

Before Christ's coming . . . the prominence of God the Father; during the days of Christ's earthly life . . . the prominence of God the Son; and since the ascension of the Son . . . the prominence of God the Holy Spirit.¹

Therefore, we live in a very special and privileged time. The physical barriers to God that once were present in the preceding ages have now been removed. The Spirit of God now dwells within the soul of man through faith in Jesus, who is the Son of God. And since the Holy Spirit dwells within the heart of those who believe in Jesus, it is our privilege and responsibility to know Him as completely as we can. This is the goal of this sermon series—***to know and love God more deeply through right thinking about His Spirit.***

In striving to have a clearer knowledge of God by understanding the person and work of His Spirit, we, naturally turn to the Bible to get our information. In these past weeks we have been focusing on the Farewell Discourse of Jesus found in John chapters 13-17. It is in these chapters that we find the Jesus teaching His disciples about who the Holy Spirit is and what He will do when He comes.

You will recall that there are Jesus’ final hours with His disciples prior to His arrest and crucifixion. Five times in these chapters Jesus offers detailed teaching on the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16-17, 26; 15:26-27;

¹ John Owen, *The Holy Spirit*, Book 1, chapter 1.

16:7-11). Last week we looked at the first instance (John 14:16-17) and this week we will look at the second.

John 14:25 (ESV)

These things I have spoken to you while I am still with you.

Jesus is about to go from them. He is nearing the time when He will allow Himself to be captured and He will give Himself over into the hands of wicked men (Jn 10:17-18; Acts 2:23). Yet while He remains with them, He continues to tell them things that they will need to know.

The sentence translated “while I am still with you,” in the Greek, literally says, “... ‘while remaining beside (παρ’ [par’]) you’ before departing for the coming of the other Paraclete.”² How sweet a thought to think of Jesus as standing right beside you! What comfort to know that He is standing by your side. And yet He was preparing the disciples to embrace in their thinking an even greater reality and an even greater comfort than His own physical presence with them—the presence of His own Holy Spirit dwelling within them!

Recall what we have already learned about the Holy Spirit last week.

John 14:16 (ESV)

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,

First, Jesus will ask the Father to send “another” (Greek, *allos*) Helper, who will be just like (i.e. the same kind) the Helper they already have. Who is the Helper who was already with them? Jesus. Jesus was the original *paraklētos* and the Helper who was to come, would be a Helper just like Jesus was a Helper.

Second, He is a Helper who will be with them forever. Once the Holy Spirit is given and received by faith in Jesus, He never leaves. He can be grieved, but He will never, ever leave.

John 14:17 (ESV)

17 even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

The promised Helper, **even the Spirit of truth** will only be given to those who believe in Jesus. The world, that is, those who do not believe in Jesus, **cannot** receive the Holy Spirit. The world cannot, is not able to, receive the Holy Spirit. However, those who believe in Jesus will not only receive the Holy Spirit, but He will **dwell within** them. He will not merely dwell with them, but He will dwell *within* them! The Holy Spirit will take up residence within the human heart!

John 14:18 (ESV)

18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”

When this happens, which for the disciples was in the future, then having the Holy Spirit within them, would be the same as having Jesus dwell within them for Jesus says, “I will come to you.” Jesus will not leave them like orphans without parents who love them or

² A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, 1997), Jn 14:25.

anyone to care for them, but He would personally come to them and take up residence with the heart of the true believers.

John 14:20 (ESV)

20 *In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.*

Having the Spirit dwell with them would effect a spiritual union with both God the Father and God the Son. Having God's Holy Spirit dwell within is like Jesus dwelling in the Father and the disciples dwelling in Jesus and Jesus dwell within them. This entire relationship is effected in and through love and results in Jesus manifesting Himself to His children.

John 14:21 (ESV)

21 *Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*

Through that loving relationship, and through the presence of the Holy Spirit, God the Father and God the Son come to make a home within the hearts of those who love Jesus and and come in God through Him.

John 14:23 (ESV)

23 *Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."*

In verse 26 we learn four other facts about the Holy Spirit.

1. The Helper is the Holy Spirit.
2. The Father Will Send Him In Jesus' Name.
3. The Holy Spirit Will Teach.
4. The Holy Spirit Will Help Bring to Remembrance All That Jesus Said.

John 14:26 (ESV)

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 that I have said to you.*

1) The Helper Is the Holy Spirit

If there was ever any doubt in the minds of the disciples as to exactly who the Helper was that Jesus was talking about, all doubt is here removed. Jesus makes this abundantly clear. **The Helper is the Holy Spirit.** Previously, in John 14:16-17, Jesus referred to the Helper as the "Spirit of truth." Here Jesus for the first time in John clearly explains that the Helper, the Spirit of truth, is the Holy Spirit of God.

He Is Not An Inferior Helper

The term 'Helper' should not in our thinking have any connotation of subordination. He is not a helper in the sense of a 'lesser skilled person hired to do all the insignificant tasks that I do not want to do.' He is not our personal genie sent to do for us all the stuff we don't want to do. He is not our servant sent to obey our every command. He does not take orders from us! He is not a 'helper' in that sense.

We should not expect to receive from Him all the answers to the test just because we do not want to do the hard work of studying and preparing for the exam. “We’ll God, you said the Holy Spirit was my Helper, so as you know I never got around to studying so send the Helper to give me all the answers on the exam.” He is not a “helper” in that sense.

He Is A Helper Like Jesus Was A Helper

We should think of Him as a ‘Helper’ who comes to me and would help me in the same way that Jesus would if He were here. He is a Helper who will come to me when I am completely incapacitated in my grief and sorrow, utterly without hope and will carry me out of the darkness and bring me out into the lighted brightness of hope in Jesus. He will come to me and help me glorify God in my life instead of glorifying myself.

We’ve already discussed what the term ‘Helper’ means. The Greek word is *paraklētos* and it means, ‘Advocate,’ ‘Counsellor,’ ‘Comforter,’ ‘Teacher,’ and ‘Guide.’³ He comes to me like a Counsellor and an Advocate—legal Counsellor and Advocate—and stands up for me and reminds me that though I am guilty of the sin, my sin-debt that I owe has already been willingly paid by sweet, kind, and gracious Jesus.

He comes to me as ‘Teacher’ and ‘Guide’ and teaches me that God’s word is true and that obeying God’s word is 10,000 times more joyfully rewarding than any sinful promise that the devil would have me believe. The Holy Spirit is a Guide in that He leads me in a certain direction and gives me a sense of His presence and peace that whatever way it is, He will be with me and will never leave me. He guides me in the paths of righteousness. After all, He is the “HOLY” Spirit.

That’s the first fact. The Helper is the Holy Spirit.

2) The Father Will Send Him In Jesus’ Name

The second fact we learn about the Holy Spirit is that ***the Father will send Him in the name of Jesus.*** To be sent in the name of another person means that you are sent in place of that person as his agent and representative. It meant that the one sent would act on behalf of the one who had sent him and it was understood that the one sent would always act in such a way that was consistent with the way in which the one sending would act if he were present.

In other words, being sent in the name of Jesus means that in the physical absence of Jesus, the Holy Spirit would serve as the personal representative of Jesus to those who believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit would now do and be the personal representative of Jesus. Understanding this allows us to understand how Jesus could say both, “I am leaving you, but I will send the Holy Spirit” and “I will come to you, I will not leave you as orphans” and not contradict Himself. The Holy Spirit would be to the disciples after the ascension of Jesus all that Jesus had been while He was bodily present.

The Holy Spirit would come in the name of Jesus. He would continue the work of Jesus in the world.

³ Colin Kruse, *The Tyndale New Testament Commentary, Volume 4: John* ed. Leon Morris (Grand Rapids, MI; Eerdmans, 2004), 304.

3) He Will Teach You All Things

This leads to the third fact about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will teach. What did Jesus do for the disciples while He was with them? One thing He did was to teach them, but now what would happen after Jesus left them? They often did not understand what Jesus said when He was with them. How much more will confusion abound after He leaves?

Mark 9:30-32 (ESV)

³⁰ They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he did not want anyone to know, ³¹ for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “*The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.*” ³² But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

The disciples needed some help in understanding all that Jesus said and He said a lot. And He would have said more, but the disciples were not able to take it all in.

John 16:12

“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.”

There were a thousand thoughts flying through the minds of the disciples. They were trying to wrestle with all that Jesus was telling them. They were grieving at His words that Jesus was leaving. He had told them He was going away. There was way too much information to process and they could not take it all in. So where were they to get this kind of help if Jesus was leaving? If Jesus was going away to a place that they could not follow, then how would they ever begin to understand all that Jesus had been teaching? The answer is that the Holy Spirit would help them.

John 14:26 (ESV)

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 that I have said to you.*

The Holy Spirit would **teach them all things**. The phrase “all things” does not refer to all things that can be known. When the Holy Spirit came to indwell the disciples He did not grant them immediate omniscience. So what does “all things” mean?

It means “all things” that Jesus had taught them. This is explained in the very next phrase, for the Holy Spirit’s role here is **to bring to mind all that Jesus said**. The Holy Spirit would be a Teacher to the disciples. He would teach them to rightly understand all that Jesus had said while He was still with them. He would give understanding to the teachings of Jesus which the disciples had previously heard but not fully understood. The Holy Spirit would take the teachings of Jesus—already recorded in the brains of the disciples—and later illuminate the full meaning of all that Jesus had taught them. There are several examples of this in the gospel of John.

Destroying & Raising Up the Temple

Jesus’ saying about destroying and raising up the temple is the first example we find in John.

John 2:18-22 (ESV)

¹⁸ So the Jews said to him, What sign do you show us for doing these things?

¹⁹ Jesus answered them, “*Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*”

²⁰ The Jews then said, It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will you raise it up in three days?

²¹ But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

²² When therefore he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the Scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Events of Palm Sunday

The disciples did not understand the events of Palm Sunday. They saw what He did but they did not understand all that Jesus chose to do on that day and they did not connect His ride on the donkey, and the waving of palm branches, and the casting of their coats on the ground before Him, and the singing and shouting, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD, even the King of Israel!”

John 12:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ His disciples did not understand these things at first, but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written about him and had been done to him.

So we see the Holy Spirit was able to illuminate the minds of the disciples to understand all that Jesus did and taught. At first they may not have understood the significance or meaning of something Jesus did or taught, but later, after the glorification of Jesus and indwelling of the Holy Spirit (i.e. after Pentecost), the Holy Spirit worked to grant understanding. The Holy Spirit taught them the meaning of all that Jesus said and did. The Holy Spirit is a Teacher.

4) He Will Bring To Remembrance All That I Said

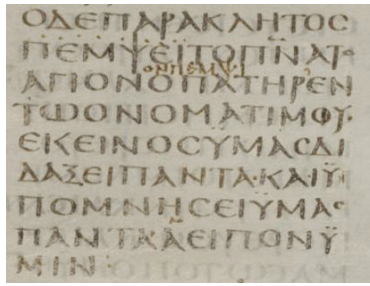
The fourth fact we learn about the Holy Spirit is that He will help in **remembering all that Jesus said**. Now, understanding is one thing, but remembering is another. So not only would the Holy Spirit help the disciples understand what Jesus did and said, but He would also help them remember it. In other words, Jesus does not want (His life and) His teaching to be forgotten. He wanted it to be remembered and so the Holy Spirit will be a Helper in remembering all that Jesus said.

Research shows that tomorrow you will probably only remember about 10% of what I am saying in this sermon.⁴ We are not skilled in information retention. Let’s assume that the disciples are just a little bit better skilled in this area than we are since people in their day were more adept at remembering out of necessity since many of the methods of recording information that are available to us, were not available to them.

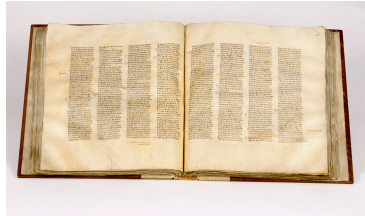
Write It Down If You Want It Remembered

How on earth were they going to remember all that Jesus said? And why should they? Yet Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would **bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you**. Jesus wanted His teachings to be remembered. He did not want His teaching to be forgotten. I’ve learned if I don’t want to forget something, then I must write it down. The disciples did just that. They wrote down all that Jesus said. And we have what they wrote down here with us today. We hold it in our hands. It is the Bible.

⁴ Kent State Center for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning, source <http://www.k-state.edu/catl/teach/gtahandbook/lprocs.htm> accessed 21 May 2011.



Here is a photo of John 14:26 from the oldest copy of the New Testament that we have. It is called the [Codex Sinaiticus](#), which literally means ‘the Sinai Book.’ Included in it is a copy of the Septuagint, which is the Greek copy of the Hebrew Old Testament. It dates to about the middle of the fourth century. It is hand written in Koine Greek.



It is also among the earliest texts to be bound in a book rather than written on a scroll. It was kept at the Monastery of Saint Catherine, located at the base of Mt. Sinai, until 1844.

This Importance of This Doctrine

Why is this verse (Jn 14:26) important? The reason this verse is so important is because it answers one of the greatest obstacles to trusting that the Bible is true.

One of the most significant questions that the enemy uses to discredit the Bible is, “How can the Bible be true since it was written by men? Man is fallible so if men wrote it, then it must be fallible, right?” This verse answers that question. The men who wrote the Bible were not left to themselves. **They were enabled by the Holy Spirit to write accurately all that Jesus said.** Not only did the Holy Spirit enable them to *understand* all that Jesus said, but He also enabled them to *remember* all that Jesus said. We, then, are the beneficiaries of that wonderful work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helped to ensure that what the apostles and others wrote was exactly what God wanted them to write.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,*

¹⁷ *that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.*

In Greek (and in Hebrew) the word for ‘breath’ or ‘wind’ is the same word for ‘spirit.’ The ‘word’ of God written and recorded as Scripture was accomplished through the breathing out of God’s Holy Spirit. And this has been the case from the beginning of the writing of Scripture.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)

²⁰ *knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation.*

²¹ *For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit was actively involved in enabling men to accurately understand, remember, and record all that God wanted His children to remember. If men were left to themselves to remember and record what God wanted, then I agree with the skeptics—who could have confidence in that?

However, if God enabled men to write by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit as their Helper during the process of understanding, remembering, and recording, then I can have great and strong confidence in the truthfulness and reliability of the Bible.

Empirical Evidence for the Reliability of Scripture

And we have empirical evidence that understanding the truthfulness of Scriptures is based upon fact and not fiction. There are literally thousands of extant copies of New Testament texts to study and examine.

It is amazing to me that some ancient writers are accepted almost without question by secular scholars, while the New Testament writings are almost completely rejected. Yet the physical evidence by way of copies of New Testament documents is overwhelming when compared to other writings that date from the same time period. (The following list is taken from F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?*, chapter 2⁵).

- 1 There are only eight manuscripts of the *History* of Thucydides who lived 460-400 B.C.⁶
- 2 There seven manuscripts from Plato which were written between 427-347 B.C. with the earliest copy dating to about 900 A.D.
- 3 There are 10 existing manuscripts of Julius Caesar's *Gallic Wars* (composed between 58 and 50 B.C.). And all of these date from the tenth century or later.
- 4 There are 20 manuscripts of Livy's *Roman History* written roughly during the time when Jesus was alive.
- 5 Only two manuscripts exist for Tacitus's *Histories* and the *Annals* which were composed around A.D. 100—[two copies date,] one from the ninth and one from the eleventh century.

Compare this with the number of copies we have of the New Testament documents. According to the [Institute for New Testament Research](http://www.institutefornewtestamentresearch.com/), in Muenster, Germany, “there are 322 uncial texts [Greek text written all capital letters], 2,907 minuscule texts [lower case letters], 2,445 lectionary portions, and 127 papyri, for a total of 5,801 manuscripts.”⁷ Having this amount of textual manuscripts is unheard of in any other ancient text from the same time period. This allows us to have unshakable confidence in the reliability and accuracy of the New Testament documents.

Now we do not have the actual copies of THE original letters written by the apostles and original authors themselves. For example, we do not have the original autograph that Paul wrote to the Romans. However, what we do have are hundreds of copies of those original letters. This is both a blessing and a curse. The more copies you have the greater the chance for scribal variants in transmission of the texts.

Textual Variants Exist But No Doctrine Doubted

There are slight variations in the copies that we do have. However, given so many copies scholars are able to compare those copies against one another, consider the geographic distribution, and analyze the script and arrive at what we are almost certain is the original text. And yet where any question still remains as to what the original letter said, there is no question regarding any major

⁵ F.F. Bruce, *The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1981), 20. Available at <http://studenthome.nku.edu/~csf/Articles/NTDocs.htm> accessed 21 May 2011.

⁶ For more ancient manuscript dating evidence see <http://carm.org/manuscript-evidence> accessed 21 May 2011.

⁷ John Piper in the sermon “Neither Do I Condemn You” available at <http://www.desiringgod.org/resource-library/sermons/neither-do-i-condemn-you--3> accessed 21 May 2011.

doctrine. "The variant readings about which any doubt remains among textual critics of the New Testament affects no material question of historic fact or of Christian faith and practice."⁸



This is not only true of the New Testament. This is also true of the Old Testament. If we can have certainty that the New Testament documents are true, and they were written just over two thousand years ago, then what about the Old Testament documents, which were written at least two thousand years before that? How can we be certain that they are true?

The Dead Sea Scrolls



The Dead Sea Scrolls are helpful here. The discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in the Qumran caves near the Dead Sea, revealed 972 texts of the Hebrew Bible (our Old Testament) and contain fragments of every book of the OT except Ruth. They are the oldest known copies of the Hebrew Scriptures and date to about 200 B.C.



Prior to their discovery the oldest copy of the Hebrew Bible dated to around 900 A.D. However, the Dead Sea Scrolls pushed back that oldest date by nearly a thousand years to around 200 B.C.⁹ The scrolls are housed in Jerusalem in the Shrine of the Book.

When the Dead Sea texts of, for example, the book of Isaiah, were compared with the oldest copy we had, it was discovered that the texts were virtually identical demonstrating that for over a thousand years the translation of the Old Testament had been accomplished with unparalleled accuracy. This leaves us with great confidence in the truthfulness and reliability of the Scriptures that we hold in our hands this morning. The Holy Spirit did not leave the apostles to themselves as they wrote about all that Jesus said and did. Fredric Kenyon summed it up this way,

"It is reassuring at the end to find that the general result of all these discoveries and all this study is to strengthen the proof of the authenticity of the Scriptures, and our conviction that we have in our hands, in substantial integrity, the veritable Word of God" (Frederic G. Kenyon, *The Story of the Bible*, 2nd ed. (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1967), p. 113, quoted in Paul Wegner, *A Student's Guide To Textual Criticism of the Bible*, Downers Grove: Intervarsity p. 301).



However, the shots at the credibility of the Bible never cease. Sometimes they come from unbelievers and sometimes they come from those who claim the name of Christ.

For example, according to Harald Camping, the Bible guaranteed that the world would come to an end yesterday. Yet, here we are this morning. I wonder what it does to the average person's confidence in the Bible to see

⁸ Bruce, p. 20.

⁹ Visit the Shrine of the Book website http://www.english.imjnet.org.il/htmls/page_1348.aspx?c0=14778&bsp=14389&bss933=13621 accessed 21 May 2011.

signs plastered all over the world that say “The Bible Guarantees it!” There is one part that is true about that statement. The Bible does teach that the world will come to an end. But the Bible also says that “No man knows the day or the hour” (Mk 13:32) and once again the Bible has proved to be true and once again, Harold Camping has been proved wrong (the first time he predicted the world would come to an end was in September of 1994).

Conclusion

As we conclude, what should we take home with us about the person and work of the Holy Spirit? God the Father, together with God the Son, sent the Holy Spirit to dwell within all who trust in Jesus. The Holy Spirit was sent as a Helper. He only comes in and through the name of Jesus. He uniquely enabled the apostles and other eye witnesses of Jesus’ life to accurately understand, remember, and record all that Jesus said.

And today, He is still at work helping us to understand what is written in the Bible and He often brings to mind a verse which gives us help or strength or encouragement in a moment that we need it. I experienced this this week. I was reading 1 Samuel with my son and verses 19-25 struck me.

1 Samuel 12:19-25 (ESV)

19 And all the people said to Samuel, Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for ourselves a king.

20 And Samuel said to the people, Do not be afraid; you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

21 And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.

22 For the LORD will not forsake his people, for his great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for himself.

23 Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.

24 Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you.

25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.

Asking for a king was wicked, because they rejected a heavenly king (the LORD God) in favor of an earthly king. And they realized that they deserved to die. And I thought to myself, “How many times have I rejected the LORD in preference of earthly things. A million times or even more? Certainly I deserve to die. Yet, what is Samuel’s response?

“Do not be afraid. You have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty.”

Trust the word of God this morning. Rest your soul upon Jesus. The things of this world are empty but Jesus came to fill your soul with His own Holy Spirit and He will give you life if you come to Him. If you have done evil, then turn away from it and turn to Jesus in faith.