THE BOOKFOLIO

When Heaven Speaks, Heaven Agrees

SAGA 5 OF 7 — THE PROMISE OF THE COMFORTER

JOHN 15:26

All Scripture is from the King James Version. The words of Jesus are printed in red.

This excerpt: the Saga Book (student) pages for Saga 5, followed by the Teacher's Master notes for Saga 5.

The Promise of the Comforter

JOHN 15:26 • KING JAMES VERSION

The Scene, Told Plainly

Jesus is with His disciples, close to the end. He knows He is going away from them — back to the Father — and He knows their hearts are troubled about it. He will not leave them with nothing. He gives them a promise.

He tells them about Someone who is coming: the Comforter. That is the name Jesus gives Him here — the One who comes alongside to help and to comfort. Jesus says, *I will send Him to you.* Not someday in a vague way. Jesus Himself will send Him.

And listen to where He comes from: *from the Father.* Jesus sends Him, and He comes from the Father. The Son and the Father are together in this sending. There is no disagreement in Heaven about this gift. When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees.

Jesus tells us His name and His nature: He is *the Spirit of truth.* He does not bring a different message, and He does not bring lies or confusion. He is truth, and He comes from truth — He *proceedeth from the Father.*

And Jesus tells us what the Comforter will do when He comes: *He shall testify of me.* He will speak about Jesus. He will point to Jesus. He will bear witness to who Jesus is. The Spirit does not come to point to Himself. He comes to testify of the Son.

Stop and see all three, all in one verse, all in one promise. The Son speaks and sends. The Father is the One from whom the Spirit proceeds. And the Spirit comes to testify

of the Son. Three Persons. One promise. One truth.

When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees.

The Scripture — Word for Word

> "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" — JOHN 15:26

These are the words of Jesus in this saga, printed in red. In this verse the Father does not speak out loud — Jesus speaks about the Father and about the Spirit. Read them slowly, out loud if you can. This is a promise Jesus meant His disciples to hold on to.

Who Is Speaking

The Father — He does not speak in this verse; He is the One from whom the Spirit of truth proceeds, and from whom Jesus sends the Comforter.

The Son — He is Jesus, speaking to His disciples; He promises to send the Comforter from the Father, and He tells us what the Spirit will do.

The Holy Spirit — He is the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, in this saga; He does not speak in this verse — Jesus speaks about Him, and says He shall testify of Jesus.

One Thing to Think About

> **ONE THING TO THINK ABOUT** — Jesus said the Comforter is the Spirit of truth, sent by the Son from the Father, and that He shall testify of Jesus — He points to Jesus, not to Himself. What does that tell you about how the Holy Spirit works, and how can you tell

when a voice is truly from the Spirit of truth?

Journal

Write it in your own words. Jesus promised He would not leave His disciples without help — He would send the Comforter. What part of this promise do you need most today — that He comes from the Father, that He is the Spirit of truth, or that He testifies of Jesus? Write it down plain.

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The Promise of the Comforter — Teacher's Notes

JOHN 15:26 • KING JAMES VERSION

Church, I want you to notice that Jesus does not leave His people guessing about the Holy Spirit. Before He goes away, He tells us plain: who the Comforter is, who sends Him, where He comes from, and what He will do when He gets here. I want to show you something — in one verse, the Son speaks, the Father is the source, and the Spirit is promised to testify of the Son. That is Heaven agreeing, in the form of a promise.

> "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:" — JOHN 15:26

The Answer to the Student Question

The students were asked: the Comforter is the Spirit of truth, sent by the Son from the Father, and He shall testify of Jesus — He points to Jesus, not to Himself. What does that tell you about how the Holy Spirit works, and how can you tell when a voice is truly from the Spirit of truth?

Here is the answer I want you to teach, plain and straight: **the Holy Spirit always points to Jesus.** That is His stated work in this verse: "he shall testify of me." He does not come to make Himself the center, and He does not bring a message that pulls away from Christ. So here is the test I want you to give your students: if a voice, a

teaching, or a feeling leads you away from Jesus — away from His words, away from His truth — that is not the Spirit of truth. The Spirit of truth testifies of the Son, because He proceeds from the Father and is sent by the Son. When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees, and the Spirit's testimony agrees with the Son He was sent to glorify.

Verse by Verse — John 15:26

"But when the Comforter is come" — Jesus does not say *if*. He says *when*. The coming of the Comforter is certain — it is a promise with a when, not a maybe. And hear the name: *Comforter*. Jesus is talking to disciples who are about to lose His visible presence, and the One He promises is named for help and comfort. Teach that first: God does not just give His people a duty. He gives them a Helper to come alongside them.

"whom I will send unto you from the Father" — I want you to see both hands in this sending. Jesus says, *I will send* — the Son sends Him. And He sends Him *from the Father* — the Father is where He comes from. Do not split that in two. The Son and the Father are one in sending the Spirit. There is no competition in Heaven over who is in charge of this gift. Hold this together with the next saga, too: in John 16 the Spirit speaks what He hears — He is sent, He does not send Himself.

"even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father" — Jesus gives us the Spirit's name and the Spirit's source in one breath. He is *the Spirit of truth* — truth is not just what He says, it is who He is. And He *proceedeth from the Father* — His coming starts with the Father. Church, that is why the Spirit can be trusted completely: He comes from the Father, who cannot lie, and He is truth by nature. When He speaks, He is carrying the Father's truth, not inventing His own.

"he shall testify of me" — This is the Spirit's work, stated by Jesus Himself, before the Spirit even comes. *Testify* means to bear witness — to say, on the record, what is true about someone. And who does He testify of? Jesus says: *of me.* Of the Son. Not of Himself, not of a feeling, not of a man. Of Jesus. Teach your students to look for that mark: where Jesus is lifted up and made clear, there the Spirit is doing exactly what Jesus said He would do.

A Short Preachable Outline

I. **The promise is certain** — "when the Comforter is come": not if, but when (John 15:26).
II. **The sending is shared** — the Son sends Him, from the Father: Heaven together in one gift (John 15:26).
III. **The Spirit is truth from the Father** — the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father (John 15:26).
IV. **The Spirit testifies of the Son** — "he shall testify of me": His work is to point to Jesus (John 15:26).

Preaching Lines

> "When Heaven speaks, Heaven agrees — the Son sends the Comforter from the Father, and the Spirit comes testifying of the Son."

> "If you want to know the Spirit is at work, look where Jesus is being testified of — that is the job Jesus gave Him to do."