

John 14:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Analysis

Jesus promises 'I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter' (kago eroteso ton patera kai allon parakleton dosei hymin). The verb erotao (pray, request) indicates Jesus' intercession. The Father gives 'another' (allon) Comforter - another of the same kind, implying Jesus Himself has been their Paraclete. Parakletos means advocate, comforter, helper, counselor - one called alongside to aid. The promise continues: 'that he may abide with you for ever' (hina meth' hymon eis ton aiona menein). The Spirit's indwelling is permanent (eis ton aiona, forever), contrasting with Jesus' temporary physical presence. This promise addresses disciples' anxiety about Jesus' departure - He will not abandon them but will provide another Paraclete. The Spirit continues and extends Jesus' ministry.

Historical Context

The promise of the Paraclete is unique to John's Gospel and central to Johannine theology. In Jewish thought, God's Spirit empowered prophets and leaders temporarily. Jesus promises permanent indwelling. Pentecost (Acts 2) inaugurates fulfillment - the Spirit descends on the church. Church Fathers debated the Spirit's identity and relationship to Father and Son, leading to Trinitarian formulations at Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (381 AD). The Filioque controversy (whether Spirit proceeds from Father alone or from Father and Son) divided East and West. This verse became foundational to pneumatology. Modern charismatic renewal emphasizes the Spirit's present activity. The verse assures believers that Christ's ascension did not leave them orphaned but initiated Spirit-indwelling.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How is the Holy Spirit 'another' Comforter like Jesus, and how does He continue Christ's ministry?
2. What difference does the Spirit's permanent indwelling make compared to Jesus' temporary physical presence?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	ἐγὼ	ἐρωτήσω	τὸν	πατέρα	καὶ	ἄλλον	παράκλητον	
And	I	will pray	G3588	the Father	And	another	Comforter	
G2532	G1473	G2065		G3962	G2532	G243	G3875	
δῶσει	ὑμῖν	τίνα	μένη	μεθ'	ὑμῶν	εἰς	τὸν	αἰῶνα
he shall give	you	that	he may abide	with	you	for	G3588	ever
G1325	G5213	G2443	G3306	G3326	G5216	G1519		G165

Additional Cross-References

John 14:26 (Parallel theme): But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26 (Parallel theme): 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:

Romans 15:13 (Parallel theme): Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Romans 14:17 (Parallel theme): For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 5:22 (Parallel theme): But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Acts 9:31 (Parallel theme): Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

1 John 2:1 (Parallel theme): My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Romans 5:5 (Parallel theme): And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Matthew 28:20 (Parallel theme): Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.