

The importance of our Helper

Sometimes we face what appears to be an impossible situation. Such difficulties are used by God to get our attention. It's our insufficiency, our lack, our bankruptcy that God uses to push us to the place of recognizing the importance of our Helper, the Holy Spirit.

In the physical we have night time or darkness set aside as the time in which we are meant to rest. Rest refreshes us so that we can face our tasks in the day and accomplish them with success. Many people put on artificial light and try and do more work at night thinking they can be more productive, but in the long run they tire themselves out and eventually face burn-out. Spiritually it's the same. If we are going through dark times, if things around us are "dark", that's the time we really need to rest in the Lord and gain strength. It's not a time for us to try through our own efforts (artificial light) to build our faith and do more works. It's a time when we are to cast ourselves upon the Holy Spirit, our Helper, and enter His rest.

The Holy Spirit dwells in us for the main purpose of helping us and if we submit to Him, He will help us as follows:

1. **He prays through us.** There are times when we don't know what to pray and our spirit, under the promptings of the Helper, can only "groan" or "sigh". In these times as we turn to the Holy Spirit He carries these groanings of our deepest longings to the throne of grace and presents them to our Father.
2. **He directs us according to the will of God.** The Holy Spirit brings us into the "Light" and this causes our will and desires to be aligned with the will of the Father.
3. **He exposes the frustrations and analysings of our mind.** All the "what if's" upon which we fruitlessly agonise. Effective praying is achieved as we cast aside the dim light of our reasoning and our unenlightened understanding and submit to the Helper as He brings us into the "Light" of the knowledge and understanding of our Lord.
4. **He will restrain us in the abundance of words and vain repetitions.** A lot of mindless, voluminous praying is like sending "junk mail" to heaven. Praying and letting out a bunch of words because it's time to pray (like grace before a meal, or a prayer at a meeting) where we are not really thinking about what we are saying or, alternately, trying to be eloquent in front of others to impress them that we can "pray"; that's mindless praying or vain repetition. It's "junk mail". Our hope is that as we submit to the Helper He will help restrain the abundance of empty words and lead us to pray more definitely in line with the will and purpose of the Father. That is what it means to pray in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is not just praying in tongues; it's prayer in our understanding, or in tongues, which is directed by the Holy Spirit. Remember, if it is not Spirit directed it's probably "junk mail".
5. **He imparts to us a holy desire.** As we submit to Him, it's the Helper that helps us, in the midst of our hectic lives, to bring to stillness and quietness our soul before the Father, that we may "know" Him, His purpose and His ways. His holy desires become ours, and he empowers us to walk in them.
6. **He enables us to stand firm against wickedness.** Our war is not against flesh and blood, it's against principalities and powers of darkness. We need to know very clearly how to stand "in the Spirit" against the enemy forces. I remember years ago moving into a house a few hundred metres away

from a shopping centre where there was a night club. Each night we had the terrible boom, boom and noise of the band and their worldly songs that could be clearly heard. I did not want this rubbish penetrating our minds, so Spirit led I prayed with the holy wrath of God against this intrusion of evil and it wasn't long before the band split up and the night club ceased to exist!

7. **He will deal with habits that do not honour God.** If we inwardly stand with the Holy Spirit against the slavery of whatever habit plagues us, He will then be free to break the outward shackles and destroy the bad habit that dishonours God.
8. **He will reveal to us the things that God has deliberately hidden from our natural mind.** We see this as a verse "jumps out of the page" to us as the Holy Spirit gives us revelation. It's the Father's desire that we understand and utilize the vast deposit of the riches we have in Christ. Our spiritual inheritance is available to us right now and it's the place of the Holy Spirit to help us "see" what is ours in Christ and to help us walk in our inheritance.

The prayer of Eph 1:17-23 is so important in this respect. That we might receive through the Helper, the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, the insight to know Christ, and the hope of His calling, and the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and the surpassing greatness of His power toward us. Why? So that by knowing Him, His purpose and His provision we can walk in His ways and partner Him in bringing about His purpose and plan here on earth.

Dan 11:32 ... "the people who **know** their God will be strong and do exploits".

You might well say, it's all well and good to say that we must, and can, know God intimately, but then don't we need to also build up our faith so that we can do the exploits He assigns to us?"

When the Holy Spirit brings us revelation knowledge and the insight into Christ comes, then the faith (the evidence of things not seen) to pray into existence or to act in line with on God's revealed will, comes as a part of the deal.

Rom 10:17 ... "So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ".

The "hearing" implies understanding with insight. Hearing is not just listening to some words being spoken; it's receiving, understanding and comprehending what has been said.

This verse says that faith comes as a byproduct of this insight or "hearing"; it's inseparably linked to the hearing.

Rom 10:17 (literally from the Greek): So/then the faith (definite article present) *is* from (denotes source) hearing and the hearing through or by means of a (no definite article) word (rhema, not logos) of Christ.

Let's link this to some other relevant scriptures and then come back to what is really being said in this Rom 10:17 verse.

Gal 2:20 ... “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by **the faith of** the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me”.

In the Greek it is “**the faith of** the Son of God”, not “faith **in** the Son of God” as is sadly and incorrectly translated in all but the KJV.

John 14:26 ... “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 said to you”.

John 16:13-14 ... “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will **speak**; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for **He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you**”.

As unbelievers we placed faith (believed) **in** Christ and what He had done for us on the cross and by doing so received His life as ours (Acts 16:31 “believe **in** the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved”). Even that faith was a gift given to us, but it was ours to employ wisely. That believing (faith) **in** Him brought about an exchange of natures in us. The old man (the Satan nature) was exchanged (crucified and left in the grave) for the new man (the Christ nature). That’s why Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me”. And from that point on, as a born again person, as a new creature in Christ, we live by **His life** and by **His faith**. His life and His faith are inseparable.

God never has and never will expect us to live the Christ life by our faith. It is simply wrong and debasing of God to say we are now believers with Christ in us as our life but we are dependent on our faith to live this life. We so wrongly say, I have to build my faith so I can live “like Christ”. It’s impossible. The whole of the Old Testament shows us that it is impossible for us to try to live the Christ life. It never was God’s plan for us to live His life by our strength or abilities. It’s impossible. From the beginning His plan has been that we should live by His life. So as the born again, as believers, with Christ in us, we now live by His life and by His faith. As the born again, that’s the only life and faith we now have. All He wants of us is to rest in Him. Abide in Him. He will produce the goods. The Holy Spirit is given to us to reveal Christ to us so we can live by His life and His faith.

Have you ever heard a grape vine grunting and groaning in an effort to produce fruit? The branches rest in or abide in the vine and the vine produces the sap and nutrients and everything. All the branches do is abide there, rest there, and let the fruit pop out and hang off them. We’re no different. Christ is the Vine we are the branches. We don’t have to work up our faith to get fruit, or miracles, or anything. We simply rest in Him and His faith and He will produce fruit, miracles, or whatever He wants, in accordance with His eternal plan and purpose, using us as the branches to pop this out of or to hang it off.

The Holy Spirit, OUR HELPER, is in us to teach us Christ, to disclose Christ to us and bring to our remembrance what He has said. So the Holy Spirit speaks to us, takes that which is of Christ and reveals it to us.

Put this all back into Romans 10:17 and let us see what it really says.

“**The faith**” refers to **the faith of** the Son of God that we live by, which is inseparable from Christ who lives in us. “Hearing” refers to receiving and understanding through revelation insight by the Holy Spirit. A word, a rhema, is something spoken. So a rhema of Christ is a revelatory word spoken of Christ.

So the faith of Christ, by which we can do exploits or produce fruit or do whatever Christ instructs us to do as He operates through us, comes along with whatever aspect of Christ the Holy Spirit “speaks” to us and reveals to us as we are enlightened by Him and receive of Him.

We started off by saying that in “**dark**” times we are to **rest** in God. It’s as we rest in our Helper, the Holy Spirit, the He **will reveal to us the things that God has deliberately hidden from our natural mind**. God has plans and purposes that He wants to bring about using us, his children who live by the life and faith of the Son of God, and as we rest in the Holy Spirit he brings us the revelation knowledge of Christ and along with this His operative faith so that as we align with Him and His will we can in confidence do or say whatever He has instructed us concerning the situation we face and see Him bring about the victory on our behalf. The only “work” left for us to do is to enter His rest.

The unfailing faith of Christ, that is powerful for the destruction of fortresses, comes as an inseparable attribute of Christ who lives in us and as we receive and gain insight and understanding of the riches of Christ that have been deposited in us, we can walk in His strength and overcome without any effort.