

Slide 1



Latter Rain - Ask the LORD for rain
Zechariah 10:1

75 The Wonder of it All (**midi no into**)
267 Spirit Divine (*tune St Agnes 269*)

Previously LR #3

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Open your hymnal to 257... bottom of the page... begins a section on the Holy Spirit
Add # 672... Spirit of the Living God...
and 326... Open My Eyes... Spirit divine

15 Plus songs... 4 responses in the back... makes nearly 20 poems... in our hymnal... on the HS
Flipping though... How many do you recognize?

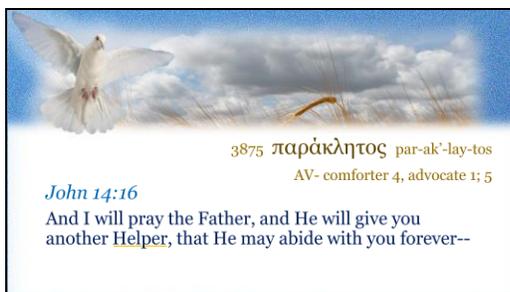
I personally... am familiar with 3... I've been a member... of several congregations... in 5 states... over 25 years
I only know... 3 of almost 20
Why is that?

There are a lot of songs... we don't sing
But there is a apprehension... almost a fear... concerning the topic

As far as I know... this is the 3rd time... in 25 years... we have touched the topic... in the quarterly 1997... on the tail end of the Celebration scare
2006... 1 quarterly ...on the HS
2010... 1 quarterly... on the Fruits of the Spirit
Certainly... there are false ideas... yes... false manifestations... masquerading as the HS

We should be cautious... but knowledge of the scriptures... and a personal... loving relationship... with God
Should alleviate our fears
We see in Jn 14:

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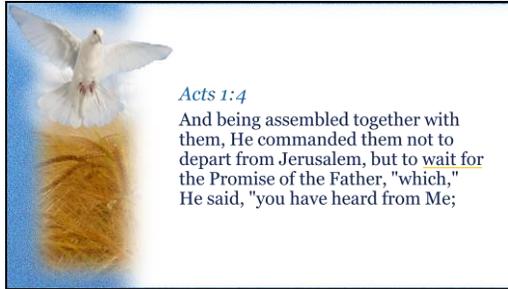
I'm giving you... another... advocate... a helper... a defense lawyer (paraclete)
Because without Me... and without Him... you won't accomplish much

At the ascension... Jesus said:

3875 παράκλητος par-ak'-lay-tos
AV- comforter 4, advocate 1; 5

John 14:16
And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

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Seeking... the "one accord"... the bond of unity... purpose... and mission

The oneness... that comes only... when Christ and His... Spirit is with us
The upper room... is a prototype... a model for us

This morning... lets focus on... what they were doing... in that upper room

So we ask... What were they doing?

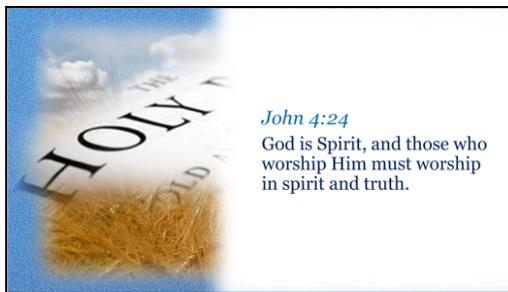
Praying... Confessing... probably studying the OT

We need to... be seeking... this unity... this outpouring of the... Spirit

If we expect to... receive the Latter Rain

In fact... a couple weeks ago... we read:

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To know for sure... we are not alone... here on this earth
And I have watched... over the last 25 years... two things

1. This Pentecostal craze... take Christianity by storm
2. The Occult... become both... appealing and somewhat normalized... in our society

But in the churches... the experience of "Worship"... has become a highly charged... emotionally elating experience
That I believe... masquerades as the... presence of the Holy Spirit

I'm worried... as you know... I wasn't always Adventist...

Yes I was raised... Catholic... but in my early 20's... I dabbled enough in... the occult world

A lot of the false worship... places an emphasis on... getting the HS

I'm concerned... I'm worried for our youth...

The youth across Christianity... seem to be... enraptured... by praise services

Music is a powerful force... and we know who... the chief musician was... in heaven

In every movie... music often goes unnoticed in the background... but it is there

Accentuating the scene... before our eyes... playing on the emotions... sometimes bringing us to tears

Now music certainly... is not bad... nor...
are emotions bad... God inspired both
Music has a way... of reaching into... the
human soul

But it can also... excite... entrance...

Story: Coworker Mary... New
Christian... so was I... I would say the
Bible says

She would say.... That is not what... the
Spirit is telling me

What should take precedence... my
premonitions... my feelings... or the
word of God

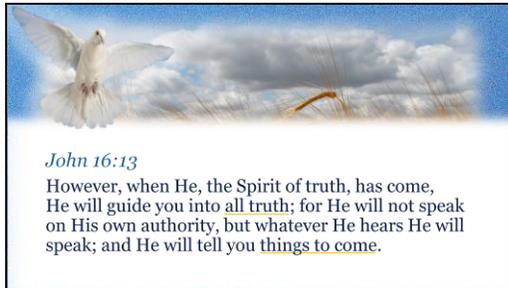
Mary didn't want to believe... because
what I was sharing.... Went contrary to
her feeling

And... week after week... she was
getting an emotional high... at her
Pentacostal church... that convinced
her...

That the spirit... in those charged up
services... must be the truth

Ho does the Spirit lead?

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The Spirit... is the truth... His role... to
lead us... into all truth
Just as Jesus was... willingly subject... to
the Father... so the Spirit

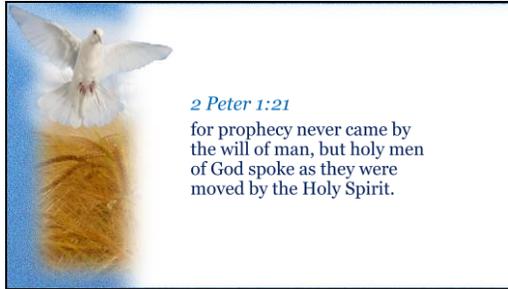
The Spirit does not have... a truth... for
each of us... individually
He is leading... yes taking into
consideration... where you are
But He is leading us all... to the same
place... into all truth

Is it any wonder... we live in a world
today... where Truth... is largely
subjective
How then is it determined... by how
feel

Note also... the Spirit was to relate...
things to come... this makes Him
Not only the... Spirit of truth... but also
the... Spirit of Prophecy

Peter says:

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This book... we know... especially by the study... and fulfilment of... its prophecies... is a cohesive whole That these 44 men... largely divided by time... cultures... and education

Wrote... amazingly cohesive thoughts... and truths... and prophecies... and thus were inspired By someone... outside of them selves... across this 1000 + years

Another popular thought... in Christianity today... is the dividing up of the scriptures.... OT... NT... Jew.... Gentile

Is this any wonder?
Satan is attaching on all fronts.

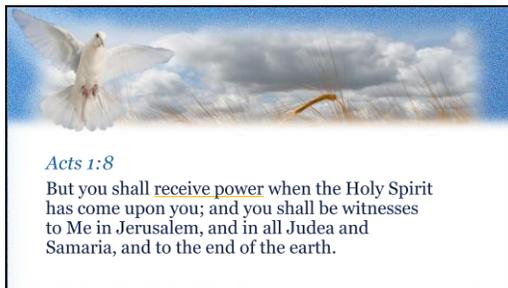
Peter tells us who it was... the HS

And this same... HS wants to... and will... lead us... into all truth

When we are being thus led... in accordance with the word...this is one way

We can be assured... we are experiencing... true revival

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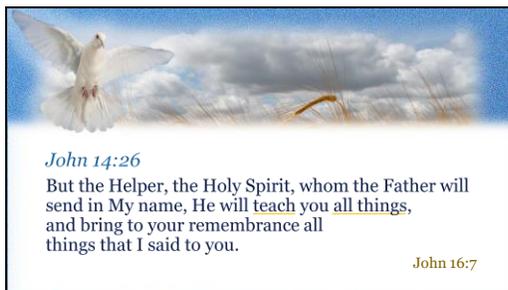


What was the role... of this Helper?

1. To give the power to be witnesses... and

Obviously Jesus... hadn't taught them... everything they needed to know

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Why... because the HS can be... Omni-present... where Jesus had taken on... Uni-presence But although we can... have the HS guidance... we need the... written revelation as well

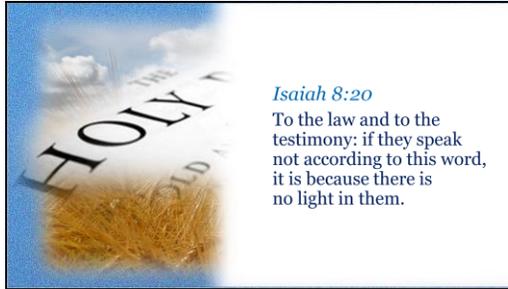
And also... what He had taught... they may have forgotten

In fact Jesus said... Joh 16:7 ...It is to your advantage that I go away... so... the Helper will...come to you

Do you know why? ...it is the way... the only tangible way... to discern truth... from error

Because the HS... never contradicts... what he told... His servants the Prophets Isaiah writes by inspiration:

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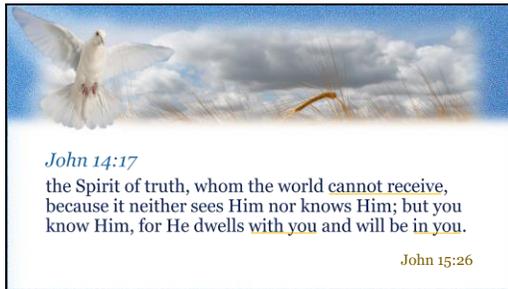
The word is our mainstay... not our feeling... opinions... or anyone's teachings

We need to be on our knees...seeking the truth for ourselves

Remember a couple of weeks ago... we were talking about... the daunting task Of taking this gospel... to the world

Jesus had told His disciples... not to leave... not to go out and get started... but to:

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Why ...cannot the world... not receive the... HS of truth?

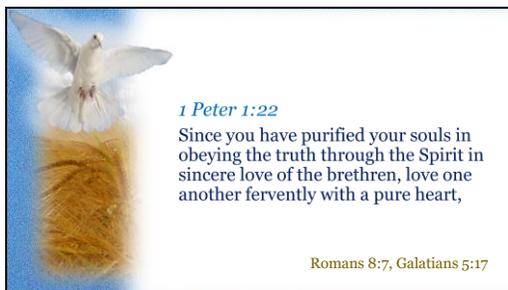
It does not know Him... Why do they not know Him?

Because as Paul says:

Eph 5:9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth)

The world does not recognize... not want that that truth

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When the Spirit... dwells with you.... and is in you as Jesus said

Then He... the indwelling Spirit of truth... purifies your soul... gives you a new heart... that you might Obey the truth... through the Spirit... in sincere love

Paul tells us also...

Rom 8:7 ...the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

It is called elsewhere by Paul... the flesh... the unconverted nature And the says..

Gal 5:17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another...

As Jesus said... they cannot receive the Spirit... because they do not... know Him

How do we know... if we are experiencing... true revival?

When our lives... are being rectified... purified... sanctified... made right By the indwelling Spirit... of the living God

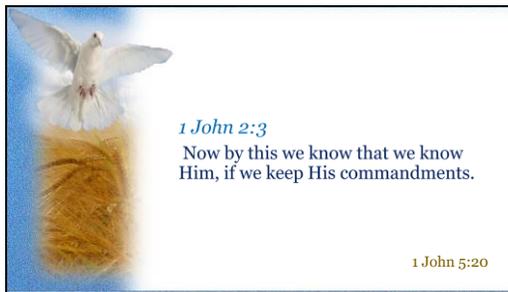
It is not elation... emotion... a tear... or an exhilarated heart beat

It is the still small voice... the peaceful assurance... the changed heart

This is how we know... Is this what you want?

When you want this... God knows your heart... He will not turn you over... to false spirits... and doctrines of devils

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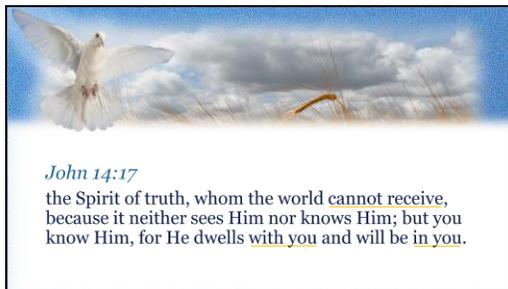


The carnal mind... lives a self focused life... therefore It will... when professing to believe... alter its course... speak right words

Or invent and theology... or philosophy... to maintain it carnality While convincing itself... it has God

And Satan is there to help... with false manifestations

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In order to carry out the Great commission... the disciples needed... the outpouring of the HS

If we are to carry... this end time gospel to the world... we need the outpouring... and indwelling... of the HS

There is nothing... more important... nothing There is... no more important time... than right now

We are living... in stupendous times... unprecedented times... unrighteous times

It is time...

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But... brothers and sister...

What we w have been speaking of... is the former rain

The changing of the heart... by the indwelling Spirit

The latter... will help us to face the trials... and finish the work

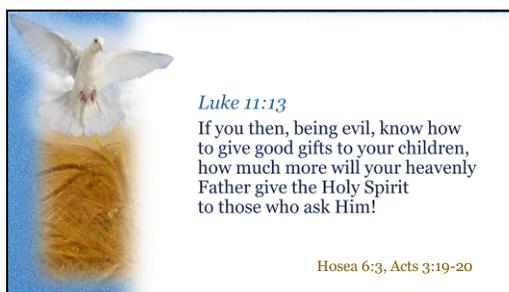
Don't worry about the latter... be sure you have the former

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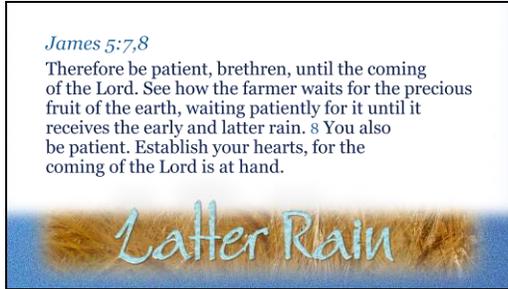
“then I will give *you* the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.” (De 11:14 NKJV)t’s time to ask... to plead... to yearn

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Let’s end... with these wise words... from James:

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267 Spirit Divine (*tune St Agnes 269*)