

*"I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you."* – John 14:25-27

Beloved Neighbors in Christ Family and Friends,

Grace and peace be with you all! Today, I am staring out the window with the hopes that the rains will stop soon. Maybe like you, I am tired of it and look for blue skies, the sun shining bright, and the temperatures to get back into the low 70s. And I know our farmer and agricultural workers seek the same – they just want to get back into the fields and continue where they have left off. But the rains have put a hiatus on that work.

Those same rains had me thinking too: How and where is God working in our lives? I chose this text from John 14 for the purpose of reminding us that tomorrow will always be better; we just have to believe it. In this section of the Evangelist's gospel, this section is referred to as the 'Farewell Discourse' where our Lord Jesus Christ tells his disciples that He is going away. We also read of Jesus taking the form of a slave servant and washing His friends' feet as a pure and intimate sign of love, tells them to love all as He has loved them, and also foreshadows that He will be betrayed by them too.

You see, my friends, tomorrow will be better – I believe that. In this long message that Jesus tells his closest followers, he again tells them that He is going away, and they cannot follow Him. He is heading towards the cross, and this is done the night before His innocent death. He goes onto explain that even though He is going 'away', God will send another in his stead. This is where we are introduced to the Advocate, or Holy Spirit, in Jesus' message. An advocate by definition is one that publicly supports and recommends a particular lesson. And this lesson, if you will, is to remind the disciples of Jesus' example here on earth: to love one another, to preach, to teach, to cast out demons, to preach the Kingdom of God, and to continue the work of the Father after Jesus has left them. They are to continue in His work, just as we are.

So how does this work in our lives? Well...I believe that the Holy Spirit, which is in us already since we were baptized, is always there to remind us of Jesus' example as well. And that too, tomorrow will always be better. The Spirit takes us to places in our lives that we are comfortable with, but sometimes makes us a bit uneasy and anxious. But that is ok because God is still with us. So, I ask again: How and where is God working in your life? Are we doing what we have been asked by our Lord Jesus? What is God calling us to do...daily? That is where the Spirit is. You see...the rains will stop, and tomorrow will be a bright and sun shiny day.

Blessings,

Rev. Erik Karlson

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