The Unique and Necessary Ministry of the Holy Spirit (John 14:25-26)

1. Christ’s Ministry to His Disciples While on Earth (v.25)
   1. Christ’s purpose is to prepare the disciples for the time after He is away from them
   2. Christ’s purpose is to protect them from faltering (see 14:29; 16:1)
      1. In unbelief as though Christ’s mission had failed
      2. In ignorance of what their identity and their mission should be as Christ’s disciples
   3. Christ’s purpose is to point to the illuminating Spirit
2. The Spirit’s Ministry to Christ’s Disciples While Christ is in Heaven (v.26)
   1. The identity of the Spirit
      1. He is the paraclete (see also 14:16-17)
      2. He has been sent (cf. 14:16)
      3. He has come in Christ’s name (cf. 5:43)
   2. The ministry of the Spirit
      1. His role is to empower disciples as He empowered Christ (see 1:32; 14:16-17)
      2. His role is to mediate the words of Christ to the apostles (see 14:17; 16:14; 1 John 4:6; cf. 3:34-35)
      3. His role is to clarify and interpret the words of Christ for the apostles (cf. 2:22; 12:16; 13:7)

*“The Spirit’s ministry in this respect was not to bring qualitatively new revelation, but to complete, to fill out, the revelation brought by Jesus Himself.” (Carson)*

*“One of the Spirit’s principle tasks, after Jesus is glorified, is to remind the disciples of Jesus’ teaching and thus, in the new situation after the resurrection, to help them grasp its significance and thus to teach them what it meant.” (Carson)*

* + 1. His role is to make the apostles into authorized representatives of Christ (15:26-27; cf. John 20:31; 1 John 4:6)

Application:

1. The important doctrine of inspiration must be known and believed
2. The promised manifestation of Christ (14:21, 23) is experienced by all disciples through the Spirit who glorifies Christ.
   1. To the apostles through the Spirit’s work of reminding and interpreting
   2. To all disciples through the written Word (14:20; 15:7; 17:17)