

# HE *Shall Be* CALLED



## Week 1 He's Our Wonderful Counselor

1. Read Isaiah 9:6. This verse says that one of the names of the Messiah (Jesus) is wonderful counselor. What is a counselor and what do they do? What are the characteristics of a good counselor? Have you ever had a counselor in life? How did they help you? Read John 14:16, 14:26, 15:26, and 16:7. As a Christian who is our counselor and where does he live? How have you experienced counsel from the Holy Spirit?

*Answer – The characteristics of a good counselor are: They comfort us, advise us, teach us, encourage us, rebuke us, tell us the truth, always available, etc. The main way that we receive counsel from the Holy Spirit is through the truth of the Word of God, but He also gives us inner impressions of things to say and do in our minds. Although He could, he does not speak to us audibly since everything God has to say to us is recorded in the Bible.*

2. Read Hebrews 4:14-16. What characteristic of our wonderful counselor does this speak about? What does it mean that Jesus is our “high priest”? What should we do as a result of this characteristic, how should it affect us? Read 1 Peter 5:6,7. What characteristic of Jesus do we see in this passage? Are there any anxieties right now in your life that you are holding on to that you need to give to your counselor? Read Matthew 11:28-30. What characteristic of Jesus do we see in this passage? Are there any burdens that are weighing you down and causing you to be weary during this holiday season? How do we give them to Jesus, practically?

*Answer—The high priest in the OT was the direct representative of the people to God, in fact he was the only one who had direct access to God. In the NT we have direct access to God because we have direct access to Jesus. Jesus went through everything we go through and understands our struggle, so there is not anything in our lives He does not understand our struggle. Not only does He know, 1 Peter tells us that He cares, what you are going through matters to Him. There is nothing too large or too small to bring to Him. Matthew tells us that not only does He know and care, He wants to do something about it, He invites us to give it to Him.*

3. The main thing that a counselor does is to give us counsel. Read Psalm 119:105; John 16:13; and Proverbs 15:22. According to these verses, in what three ways does Jesus speak counsel

to us? Can you give an example from your life of how you received counsel from these three methods and how it changed your life?

*Answer—The three ways we receive counsel from Jesus in these three verses are: 1. From His word; 2. From the Holy Spirit; and 3. From other people who are wise, our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

4. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. What promise does God give in this verse? When was a circumstance in your life where this promise helped you personally? How so? Read James 4:8, what promise does God give you in this verse? When was a circumstance in your life where this promise helped you personally? How so? Read John 5:24. As close as you can remember, when did Jesus keep this promise to you? How has it impacted your life on a day to day basis?

*Answer—The promise in Deuteronomy is that God will never leave you or forsake you. The promise in James is that God will always be near to you, and the promise in John 5:24 was kept the moment you trusted Christ as Savior.*

5. Read Joshua 1:8,9. What is promised to those who listen to what God says in order to obey it? What is the one thing you know that God wants you to do at this time in your life but you are afraid to do so? Can you share why you are afraid? How do our fears keep us from being successful? How can the promises in question #4 help you to overcome your fears? Read Romans 8:28. How can this promise help us to overcome our fears?

*Answer—Fear is one of the most powerful emotions that we feel. It is necessary because it keeps us alive physically, but is the number one thing that keeps us from doing what God wants us to do. This is why God tells us “don’t be afraid” so often in the Bible. When it comes down to it, we fear to do what God says because we do not have 100% faith in God to have our backs no matter what happens. Growing as a Christian means that you increase in your faith in God so that you are willing to do the things that you fear to do because you are confident in what Romans 8:28 promises: God can cause everything that happens to us to turn out for our good, even the things we fear.*