

Knowing the Holy Spirit

Part 2

Our Divine Helper

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS

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A publication of , the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

Questions for Reflection or Discussion

Observation—*What do I see?*

- In John 14:16, what does the Greek word behind "another" actually mean, and what is its significance?
- What various English words translate the Greek word *parakletos*? What do these various translations tell us about the roles of the Holy Spirit?
- Contrast David's concern in Psalm 51:11 with Jesus' promise in John 14:16. Since the Holy Spirit is God, what is the significance of this development?

Interpretation—*What does it mean?*

- How is it "to our advantage" that Jesus went away (John 16:7)?
- How did Pastor Doug explain the significance of the fact that the Holy Spirit is "unknown to the unsaved world" (John 14:17)?
- Since the Spirit's ministry draws attention to Jesus, rather than to himself, what should a "Spirit-filled worship service" look like?

Application—*What do I do with this?*

- Review the eight things Jesus reveals about the Holy Spirit in John 14:16–17 and the surrounding passage. Which ones are most meaningful to you—and why?
- We are to "listen to the Spirit as Teacher," approaching Scripture with humility, prayer, and willingness to obey. How does your current pattern of Bible reading reflect—or fail to reflect—that posture?
- We are to depend on the Holy Spirit as our Helper. In what area(s) are you tempted to rely on self-effort more than the Spirit's help?
- Since the Holy Spirit is called the "Spirit of truth," we are to "walk honestly before" Him. Is there anything that the Spirit is convicting you of, but you've not yet been willing to confess and forsake? Are you grieving the Holy Spirit in any way (Ephesians 4:30)?

Sermon Summary

In our study last week, we established that the Holy Spirit is not some impersonal force - but is a divine person. He possesses all of the characteristics of personhood. Furthermore, both the Old and New Testaments assign to Him all of the attributes of deity. When studying the person and work of the Holy Spirit, it is difficult to know where to start. John's Gospel gives us the clearest doorway into Jesus' teaching about the Holy Spirit. We will briefly consider several places we could begin, then focus on what Jesus Himself revealed to His disciples in the Upper Room discourse. We could begin with the Old Testament in Gen. 1:1-2. There are many other scattered references to the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament, (e.g., Ex. 31:3; Num. 11:17; Judges 3:10; 1 Sam. 10:6; 2 Kings 2:16; Neh. 9:30; Isaiah 11:2; 61:1; Ezek. 2:2; Joel 2:28; Micah 3:8; Hagai 2:5; Zech. 4:6; Mal. 2:5).

We could begin with the synoptic gospels—Matthew, Mark and Luke, so called because of the high degree of similarity between their accounts of Jesus' life (Matt. 1:18). Just as the Holy Spirit played a role in Creation in Genesis 1, so He also played a role in Jesus' incarnation. Interestingly, the synoptic gospels connect John the Baptist's baptism of Jesus to the Holy Spirit's descent upon him (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22). We could begin with the book of Acts which records the activities associated with the early church. As you read through the book of Acts, the work of the Holy Spirit is portrayed throughout the book. After all, the book is often called, "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." We could begin our study of the Holy Spirit with the Apostle Paul. In his teaching, Paul spoke of the Holy Spirit often. He explains the Spirit's baptism, sealing, filling, empowering, and gifting ministries, showing how central the Spirit is to Christian identity and service. We could begin with the other New Testament books, all of which have plentiful references to the Holy Spirit.

But perhaps the best way to begin to grasp the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit is by observing how Jesus introduced Him to His disciples as recorded in the Gospel of John (John 14:16–17). Then, as the conversation continues in John 14–16, He adds another ministry of the Spirit that we also need to consider.

1. He is "another Helper". John is telling us here that the Holy Spirit will be a Helper of the same kind as Jesus—hinting at His shared deity and role. The idea is that just as Jesus came alongside His disciples, so too, would the Holy Spirit come alongside and help us. He would be our Helper, our Comforter, our Counselor, our Advocate.
2. The Holy Spirit would be a "gift from God the Father". It was the Father who had sent Jesus into the world. Jesus was a good gift to us from God the Father. Just as the Holy Spirit is.
3. The Holy Spirit would come in response to Jesus' intercession. Jesus asked and the Father gave (Acts 2:33). This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.
4. The Holy Spirit would never depart from us. Jesus also taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit would never abandon them. He would be with them forever. These must have been some very comforting words. What Jesus spoke of here was an abiding permanent relationship in which the Spirit would remain with believers for the rest of their lives.
5. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. That is, the Holy Spirit is the "truthful Spirit", who would bear witness to, and corroborate and communicate the truth (cf. John 14:6; 1:32–33; 3:5–8; 4:23–24; 6:63; 7:37–39; Hebrews 6:18; Titus 1:2). Because He is the Spirit of truth, subjectively we must be honest with the Holy Spirit (Psalm 51:6).
6. The Holy Spirit is unknown to the unsaved world. Consequently, they cannot receive Him or know Him or benefit from His ministry (John 16:8). If unsaved people respond appropriately to this work of the Holy Spirit and place their trust in Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within them and they are translated from the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light.
7. The Holy Spirit will live within believers. Jesus informed His disciples that in the future, when He was physically gone, the Holy Spirit would be "in them" not just with them. He used to come upon people temporarily to aid them in God's service. But today the Holy Spirit indwells believers (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 12:13) permanently. When Jesus first informed His disciples that He would soon be going away, they were disappointed and confused. But He explained that it was to their advantage that He go away—because in His absence the Holy Spirit would come and dwell within them (John 16:7; 16). Jesus was present with them through the ministry of the Holy Spirit. And He is still present with us today, through His Spirit.
8. The Holy Spirit would be our "Teacher". While Jesus was here, He taught His disciples. But when He left, the Holy Spirit took on that important role (John 14:26). Jesus reassured them that after He left, the Holy Spirit would bring to mind all that He had taught them. The Holy Spirit's teaching ministry would also guide them beyond their present understanding (John 16:13). When it comes to knowing the things of God, the Holy Spirit is our personal guide. The purpose of a guide is to show us what is there. Guides don't invent what is there, they reveal what is already there.

The Holy Spirit is our teacher and the Bible is our textbook. He is the ultimate author of the Bible. That is, He inspired the human authors to write what they did and as we have seen the last two weeks, these human writers revealed a lot about the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit! While the Holy Spirit's main focus was to bear witness to Christ, He also invites us to get to know Him, to love Him, to trust Him, to serve and obey Him. He is just as worthy of our worship as is God the Father and God the Son.

All that Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit is absolutely true. He wants to be our Helper, our Teacher, and our Guide as we follow Jesus in discipleship. He wants to live in you and express Himself through you. And He will, if you let Him. **So...**

- **Depend** on the Holy Spirit as your Helper; do not try to follow Jesus in your own strength.
- **Walk** honestly before the Spirit of truth; confess what He exposes and obey what He makes clear.
- **Listen** to the Spirit as your Teacher; come to the Scriptures with humility, prayer, and a willingness to obey.

Jesus is Better



...so Perseverently! Confidently!

Click Here!



Have you ever wondered...

- ...if you can be confident you're going to heaven? (Hebrews 10:35)
- ...if you can fall away from God and lose salvation? (Hebrews 6:4-6)
- ...if your faith measures up to what God requires? (Hebrews 11)

Join other TCC men and women for an in-depth
exploration of the fascinating ~ *and often troubling* ~

Book of Hebrews.

Beginning in September

Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings
(6³⁰-8pm) (9³⁰-11am)

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

In John 6:63 Jesus insisted that “the Spirit gives life; the flesh profits nothing.” This week explore whether the Spirit of God is producing the life of Christ within you.

Monday—The Spirit Regenerates the Soul: From Death to Life

Study: John 3:3-8; Romans 8:1-11; Ephesians 2:1-6 and Titus 3:3-7

The natural person is not merely sick but spiritually dead. Therefore, the Spirit must perform a supernatural work of regeneration. The Holy Spirit begins the Christian life by giving a spiritually dead sinner a new heart capable of knowing, loving, and obeying God.

- Has the Spirit given me new desires toward God?
- Do I merely admire Christianity, or has God changed my heart?

Tuesday—The Spirit Unites Believers to Christ and Gives Communion with God

Study: Romans 8:14-17; Galatians 4:4-7; Ephesians 3:14-19 and 1 Corinthians 6:17

The Spirit brings believers into living fellowship with Christ and enables them to enjoy God as their Father. "Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'" (Galatians 4:6).

- Do I relate to God primarily as a judge I fear or as a Father I love?
- Do I treasure communion with God?

Wednesday—The Spirit Sanctifies Us Through the Mortification of Sin

Study: Romans 8:12-14; Galatians 5:16-24 and Colossians 3:1-10

The Spirit impels and empowers us to wage war against remaining sin and gradually conforms believers into the image of Christ. John Owen famously wrote: "Be killing sin or it will be killing you."

- What sins am I tolerating—or, God forbid, "enjoying"—rather than killing?
- Am I depending on the Spirit's power or merely my own discipline?

Thursday—The Spirit Strengthens the Soul Through Prayer and Suffering

Study: Romans 8:18-27; Ephesians 6:18 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

The Spirit sustains believers in weakness by helping them pray, endure suffering, and trust God's purposes. See trials not as evidence of God's absence but as instruments by which the Spirit deepens faith. Romans 8 promises no condemnation—not a suffering-free life. Instead, it promises the Spirit's presence in suffering.

- Do trials drive me toward God or away from Him?
- Do I see suffering as an enemy or as a tool in God's hands?

Friday—The Spirit Produces Love and Service Within Christ's Body

Study: Romans 12:3-8 and Ephesians 4:1-16. Read: 1 Corinthians 12-13

The Spirit gives gifts to believers so that Christ's body may grow in love and maturity. Genuine spirituality always produces humility and love. Spiritual gifts without love are empty.

- Do my spiritual activities make me more loving?
- How am I living for Christ's glory?

Saturday—The Spirit Gives Assurance and Prepares Us for Glory

Study: Romans 8:15-39; Ephesians 1:13-14 and 2 Corinthians 5:1-5

The Spirit assures believers of God's love now and guarantees their future inheritance. Carefully distinguish between faith (trusting Christ) and assurance (knowing and experiencing confidence that one belongs to Christ). The Spirit is called "the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it" (Ephesians 1:14).

- Am I looking primarily at my fluctuating feelings or Christ's finished work?
- Is the Spirit producing evidence of grace in my life?