



THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BELIEVER

The Neglected Person of the Holy Spirit

Out of the three Persons of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, it is likely that the Holy Spirit is the most neglected of the three when in fact He is the Person in the Godhead with whom we are to have the most dealings in this present age. His neglect comes from our inadequate attention, especially through carelessness or disregard. The purpose of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell within us is to glorify Jesus. Jesus said of the Holy Spirit in **John 16:14 (ESV)** ¹⁴ *He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.* The Holy Spirit is not self-focused – even though He is God! The Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus! Shouldn't we be doing the same?

Although God seems to be moving in some very encouraging ways in the Third World, especially in China, Southeast Asia, Africa, and parts of India, in our own land we are experiencing discouraging days. We make a grave mistake when we view professing Christ as a 'finished transaction'. Professing Christ is just the beginning of our life in the Spirit!

The Helper – Our Paraclete

Read John 14:15-18 (ESV) ¹⁵ *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.*

Before Jesus spoke to His disciples of the Comforter who was to come, He told them if they loved Him to keep His commandments. True love is not just sentimental – true love for the Lord of heaven is keeping His commands. Of course, there are many but the one that comes to my mind first is: **Matthew 28:19-20 (ESV)** ¹⁹ *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

The English Standard Version translates the Greek parakletos meaning "one called alongside," as Helper. The word "Paraclete" has been added to our English language as a transliteration of parakletos. Transliterate means to represent or spell in the characters of another alphabet. Paraclete can be defined as Advocate, Helper, Counselor or Comforter. Ancient Greeks used the term for one called in to assist or speak for another, frequently in a court setting. Rabbis transliterated this Greek word into Hebrew, using it to denote an Advocate before God. Christ is our Paraclete or Advocate with the Father when we sin. The Holy Spirit is the believer's indwelling Paraclete to help our ignorance and weakness and makes intercession for us. (**Romans 8:26-27**)

Those of us who grew up reading the KJV most often think of the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. David Legge says, "When we think of a comforter, we sort of imagine someone coming and patting us on the back, and saying: 'There, there, it'll be alright'. That may be what the Holy Spirit does at times in our

lives - but that is not what the Lord Jesus had in view here. It's more like, as one person said, not the lullaby for the fainthearted, it is a blood transfusion to conquer life. So the Holy Ghost is to come alongside us and infuse us, as an encourager, with strength to live the life that God wants us to."

Could it be that we worry and fret so much because we tend to 'forget' or ignore the Presence of God who dwells within us? Jesus said: *behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*" How is He with us? He is with us through the Presence of the Holy Spirit of God that believers' possess. We do NOT need to be anxious – Immanuel – God With Us!

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He is always true to us, and to His work for us. The real question is this: "Will we be true to Him?" OR, "Will we neglect Him for the things of this world?" By the way, the Spirit of God who lives within us is a Person – not an "It."

The Teacher!

Read John 14:26 (ESV) ²⁶ *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.*

The Holy Spirit is the believer's Helper – our Comforter and our Indweller. He is also our Teacher. Wondering how to learn more about God or spiritual matters? Be led by the Spirit!

People in the world walk by sight and depend on the externals, but Christians are supposed to walk by faith and depend on the **eternals**. The Spirit of God teaches us the Word and guides us into the truth. He also reminds us of what He has taught us so that we can depend on God's Word in the difficult times of life. **John 14:27 (ESV)** ²⁷ *Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.*

The Spirit's Testimony

Read John 15:26 (ESV) ²⁶ *"But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.*

Jesus again describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth reminding us of the Oneness and Truth of God. **John 14:6 (ESV)** ⁶ *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

It is sad when we worry and stress over so many things neglecting to access the Gift that Jesus provided – that is the Power of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. We should NOT forget His Presence within us. **Romans 8:16 (ESV)** ¹⁶ *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God.* When times are tough, allow the Holy Spirit who dwells within you to comfort you and give assurance that you are an heir of God.

We have a perfect standing before our LORD because of the finished work of Jesus Christ. How do we know *personally* that we have this perfect standing before God? Because of the witness of the Holy

Spirit through the Word. **Hebrews 10:15-16 (ESV)** ¹⁵ *And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying,* ¹⁶ *“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds,”* When a sinner trusts Christ, our sins are forgiven, the guilt is gone, and the matter is completely settled forever. **Psalm 103:12 (ESV)** ¹² *as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.* The Holy Spirit within us gives testimony to this truth!

The Holy Spirit Advantage!

Read John 16:5-7 (ESV) ⁵ *But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’* ⁶ *But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.* ⁷ *Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you.*

Have you ever been so concerned with how something in the life of another person affects you that you forget to be concerned about the person? Our first thoughts are not them – but how their situation affects us. At that moment, the disciples were more concerned about how Jesus’ absence would affect them than where He was going and why. Not one of them asked where He was going.

As a Man, Jesus was limited to where His body was. After He left earth, the Holy Spirit would be sent to work through the entire Body of Christ (the Church) empowering us as servants of God to proclaim the message of Christ. He had to go before the Spirit would come. That would be to their advantage and to ours as well.

Let’s look back to the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit first came to earth and Peter preached in the Spirit’s Power.

Read Acts 2:37-42 (ESV) ³⁷ *Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”* ³⁸ *And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit...”* ⁴¹ *So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.* ⁴² *And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

Irish pastor David Legge says, “Someone put it very well: on the day of Pentecost Peter preached one sermon, and 3000 souls were saved; and we preach 3000 sermons, and hardly see one soul saved. I know there can be factors that contribute to that, and you can’t take God’s sovereignty out of it all, I know that - but could we not be doing with a wee bit more power, a bit more power in our churches and in our evangelism?”

John Owen, the great puritan theologian, said of his own day that the church is stuck somewhere between the cross and Pentecost. Many believers’ efforts are operating as if the Holy Spirit never came!

Someone put it like this: imagine an angel who once observed the mighty Moses, and all the patriarchs, the apostle Paul, the reformers and the revivalists, the Whitefields and the Wesleys and Spurgeons; and then he is transported into the 21st century American Sunday morning. He goes to one of our Sunday services. Does that angel observe any remnant of the power of God within us?

When we are saved we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, but the great question is: from the day that you were saved, has the Holy Spirit possessed all of you? Does the Holy Spirit possess all of you NOW? We talk about the Holy Spirit, we sing about the Holy Spirit, we believe in the Holy Spirit. Yet, nothing is more chilling than a Christian who possesses the Holy Spirit and then continually fails to ignite the Holy Spirit within him/her.

You might be wondering, how does someone neglect the Holy Spirit?

One of the greatest ways we can neglect the Spirit is by failing to proclaim the message of Christ that should be burning within us. We need to give voice to the salvation of Jesus by our lives – our words – our actions. If you think you are being led by the Spirit and yet the way you are walking contradicts what God’s Word teaches, don’t fool yourself. You are not being led by the Spirit. Humans are good at justifying and rationalizing our actions to suit our own purposes. The work of the Holy Spirit is to convict us. Heed the warning: *Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:19*

It is the purpose of the Holy Spirit within us to guide us. **Romans 12:2 (ESV)** ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.* The Life Application Bible Commentary reminds us, “It is possible to avoid most worldly customs and still be proud, covetous, selfish, stubborn, and arrogant. Only when the Holy Spirit renews, reeducates, and redirects our mind are we truly transformed.”

When we follow the leading of the Spirit we must say ‘no’ to our own desires. Our desires might not be bad desires in themselves; but if our desires are not ‘in sync’ what the Spirit’s leading, we are harming the Spirit’s testimony within us.

We may feel compelled for various reasons to promote God’s work. However, we must remember even if a person possesses a vast knowledge of biblical truth and superior abilities, a person cannot be fully effective in the service of the kingdom of God unless that person is energized by the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, we must also remember that even if we do not have superior abilities or biblical knowledge, that same Holy Spirit can energize us.

Most Church families today spend a lot of time discussing the things their church needs. Could it be that what the Body of Christ genuinely needs is to rediscover the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our churches, in our evangelism, and in our personal lives?