

# Introducing the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18)



It was a historic moment when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Person of Trinity introduced the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of Trinity. Jesus made 7 statements about the Holy Spirit in just 2 verses of John 14:16-17.

## 1. The Holy Spirit is 'HE' – Person just like Jesus

The Holy Spirit is not 'it', but 'He' (John 14:16).

- a. Up until now, the disciples were struggling to grasp the divinity of Jesus Christ, i.e., that He is God! (Matt 16:16) In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was known as the 'breath of God', the 'fire of God', the 'glory cloud', etc. Now Jesus introduces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Trinity and declares what Israel knew as the 'power of God' is really a Person, just like Jesus is a Person.

There are 2 different Greek words for 'another'. '*allos*' means another of the same quality. '*heteros*' means another of a different quality. The Holy Spirit is another '*allos*' Person, who is just like Jesus. He can be 'pleased' (Acts 15:28) or 'grieved' (Eph 4:3). He is not an impersonal power.

- b. It took another 350 years before the church reached the firm conclusion about the divinity of the Holy Spirit, that He is God. At the Council of Constantinople (381AD) the doctrine of Trinity became the yardstick for 'Christian orthodoxy.' No wonder Jesus said, '*I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*' (John 16:12)
- c. The proper name for the 3<sup>rd</sup> person of the Trinity is the 'Holy Spirit' (John 14:25). Just as God is 'holy' (C.f. Is 6:3; Rev 4:8), so is His Spirit - He is the 'Holy' Spirit. There are many 'unclean spirits' in the world, but only one Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God - He is sovereign, and He cannot be controlled. The effect of the Holy Spirit on a believer is holy living. God's breath is clean and holy. When we come under God's breath, holiness, wholesomeness, and soundness are the result. Beware of unholy and unwholesome lifestyle claiming to be the work of the Spirit (Gal 5:19-21).

## 2. The Holy Spirit will come alongside to help

'Another Helper' - '*paraclete*' means 'someone called alongside to help' (John 14:16). The Greek word '*paraclete*' is impossible to translate into one English word, so it has many different translations in the English Bibles.

(a) Helper (NKJV) (b) Advocate – 'Defence Lawyer' (NIV) (c) Comforter (ASV) – 'com-fort-er', i.e., 'fortress' (d) Counsellor (CSV) (e) Intercessor (Amplified) (f) Standby (Amplified) (g) 'Executive Administrator' – or executor of a will. The executor's job comes into effect once the one who made the will dies. When Jesus died, He did not have any earthly belongings to pass on to us, but He left a will with heaven's richest inheritance, the Father's greatest gift for His own.

## 3. Holy Spirit is the gift of the Father

Just as Jesus was 'the gift' from the Father. (C.f. John 8:16). '*He will give you another (allos) Helper*' (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit is the greatest gift of the Father. When we receive this gift of the Father ('dorea'), we can receive the 'gifts' of the Holy Spirit ('charismata'), the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:8-10). The gifts are instantly 'received' by faith, but the fruits are 'grown' over time by walking in the Spirit (Gal 5:22-25).

The exact process by which the Holy Spirit was given to the church at the Pentecost, became a big issue that separated the Eastern church from the Western church. The Western church (Latin speaking, e.g., St. Augustine) believed that the Holy Spirit was sent by the Son and the Father. The Eastern church (Greek-speaking) believed that the Father sent the Holy Spirit through the Son. It was like splitting a hair!

*'But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.'* (John 15:26)

*'I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper.'* (John 14:16)

One thing is clear - the Holy Spirit came to the church through the direct intercession of Jesus for us.

#### 4. The Holy Spirit comes to stay with us forever

*'That He [Holy Spirit] may abide with you forever.'* (John 14:16) *'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'* (Matt 28:20)

The Holy Spirit comes to abide with us permanently. This does not mean that the Holy Spirit cannot be grieved or quenched. When David realised, he had sinned against God and grieved the Spirit of God, he cried out, *'Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.'* (Ps 51:10-11). David saw what a catastrophe it was to lose the Holy Spirit, watching King Saul's life. An evil spirit came to torment Saul when the Holy Spirit left him (1 Sam 16:14). Likewise, Paul warns the Christians, *'Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by which you were sealed for the day of redemption.'* (Eph 4:30)

The comforting news is that when we grieve the Holy Spirit, it does not mean the Holy Spirit will depart from us permanently like He did with Saul. Our desire to repent and please the Holy Spirit is a sign that He is with us. *Christian maturity can be seen in the time gap between grieving the Holy Spirit and repentance.*

#### 5. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth

*'The Spirit of truth...'* (John 14:17).

- a. THREE coordinates of truth: Jesus (Jn 14:6); the Word of God (Jn 17:17); the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:17).

The Holy Spirit is the author of the entire Scripture (2 Pet 1:21; 2 Tim 3:16), so the Holy Spirit will never contradict His Word. If we truly want to understand the Scriptures, we need to be on good terms with the Holy Spirit. If we want a relationship with the Holy Spirit, we must be honest with Him. The Holy Spirit cannot lie just as God cannot lie. *'...it is impossible for God to lie.'* (Heb 6:18). The Holy Spirit does not like exaggerations, embellishments, half-baked truths, or white lies. *'Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts.'* (Ps 51:6).

Commitment to truth and being truthful is very important if we want to build a good relationship with the Holy Spirit. One of the challenges of the last days' deception is - many people will want a spiritual power rush and excitement but are not committed to truth, and God's response will be to send 'strong delusion' to those who have not received the love of the truth (2 Thess 2:10-11). This is a caution for the prophetic movement.

- b. The Spirit of Truth will be our Teacher into all truth in 2 main ways:

**By reminding us.** The disciples received many teachings from Jesus for 3 ½ years - how to pray, how to forgive, how to respond to criticism, etc. How will they remember it all? *'The Holy Spirit will bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.'* (John 14:26) If we are in a good relationship with the Holy Spirit, He will bring to our mind the *right application of Jesus' teaching* at the right time. We need the Holy Spirit to live out the Word of God. However, if we do not study the Word, then the Holy Spirit has nothing to remind us of.

**By showing us what is to come [prophetic anointing].** A third of the Bible is prophecy. God declares the end from the beginning. We can get access to supernatural knowledge that no one can have access to. Is there a limit to how much the Holy Spirit can reveal to us? Jesus said, *'All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore, I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.'* (John 16:15) The more we walk in the light the more we learn, The more we learn, the more the Holy Spirit can reveal to us the deep things of God (1 Cor 2:9).

We must remember that there is a supreme aim of the Holy Spirit in revealing the deep things of God. It is to glorify Jesus Christ. *'He [Holy Spirit] will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.'* (John 16:14) We never take our eyes from the glory and the beauty of Jesus Christ.

#### 6. The world cannot receive the Holy Spirit

*'Whom the world cannot receive...'* (John 14:17)

- a. An unsaved person cannot receive or appreciate the Holy Spirit. Why?

There are THREE pre-requisites to receiving the Holy Spirit: (i) Conviction of sin, (ii) Righteousness of God in Christ, (iii) Judgment to come.

*'When He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.'* (John 16:8)

Why do you want to become a Christian? To become happier? We must be saved because we will all face the judgment of God one day (Heb 9:27). The only way to stand un-condemned on the day of judgment is to repent of our sins and receive the gift of God's perfect righteousness through Christ. When we are convicted of these THREE things and respond to God by faith, it is called conversion.

- b. The Holy Spirit is for all born-again Christians who have repented of their sins and are committed to following the Lord Jesus Christ. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? By persistent faith and not by works (Gal 3:14).

*'And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled (continual present tense) with the Spirit.'* (Eph 5:18)

After we have received the Holy Spirit, we must go on to keep being filled with the Holy Spirit. Why? 'Because we leak.' (D.L. Moody)

## **7. The Holy Spirit will dwell within us**

*'But you know Him for He dwells with you and will be in You.'* (John 14:17) The emphasis on this point (John 14:16) - The Holy Spirit will come to take a permanent residence 'INSIDE OUR SPIRIT!'

- a. This wasn't true under the covenant of law. Under the old covenant, the Holy Spirit came upon certain special individuals for a limited time for a specific purpose. When they sinned, the Holy Spirit departed from them. But on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out and filled all the disciples at the same time FROM WITHIN (Acts 2:1-4). This was THE SIGN that they were in the last days according to Joel's prophecy.
- b. When this happened, they understood what Jesus meant, *'At that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.'* (John 14:20) How? The Holy Spirit became so real to them from the inside, as Jesus was so real to them from the outside. Until now they only knew Jesus in a natural way through the physical senses. But when the Holy Spirit was poured into their hearts, the same Jesus they knew became so real to them within their spirit.

This is the reason Jesus appeared to them in different forms for 40 days before He ascended (Mark 16:12). To train their 'spiritual senses' to know Jesus' presence by the Spirit. Jesus said, *'I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you (in the Person of the Holy Spirit).'* They did not like it one bit. They did not want 'another Helper.' They wanted Jesus to stay. This is why Jesus said, *'...because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.'* (John 16:6)

- c. But Jesus reassured them that it is better for them that He goes away. *You will be better off having the Holy Spirit as your personal Helper from within, than having My physical presence with you.* (John 16:7) Only when the Holy Spirit was given to them,
- (i) the love of God could be poured out into their hearts by the Spirit (Rom 5:1),
  - (ii) the deep things of God can be revealed to them directly by the indwelling Spirit (1 Cor 2:12),
  - (iii) The Spirit within them would produce fruits of the Spirit in their character when they suffered persecution (Gal 5:22-23),
  - (iv) the gifts of the Spirit could be given to them so that they could do the works of Jesus and even the 'greater works' (John 14:12; Heb 6:4-5).
- d. We can see the drastic change in the disciple's understanding of the will of God once they were filled with the Spirit. When the Spirit came upon them, they received great boldness and became powerful witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**The bottom line was that when the Holy Spirit came, they did not lose Jesus after all!**