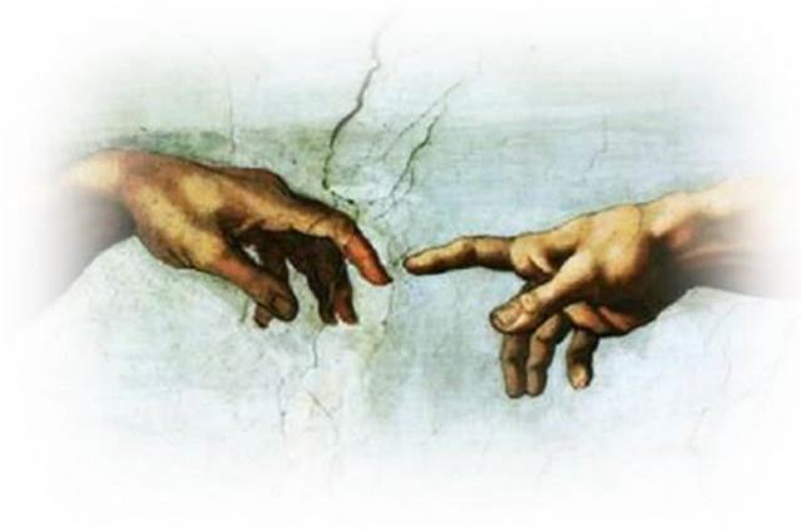


THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Holy Spirit

In John 14 Jesus said:

John 14:15-17 ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Jesus said very plainly that He would send *another* Comforter to comfort His people after His departure.

Let's first take a look at a different verse that uses the word *another*.

1 Samuel 10:6, 9 ⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. ⁹ And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

It says that Saul became another man, yet physically he was the same person, it was his experience that made him another man.

When we read John 14 we see that Jesus did not finish the conversation with verse seventeen. In the very next verse He clearly explains who will be coming as the comforter.

John 14:18 ¹⁸ I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Jesus said that He would come to His disciples as *another* Comforter. This is quite appropriate since the Bible plainly tells us who the Comforter is. The Greek word $\epsilon\pi\iota\upsilon\tau\upsilon\chi\omicron\sigma\kappa\omicron\varsigma$ (parakletos), translated "Comforter," it is used five times in the Bible. Four times the word is translated "Comforter" and the other time it is translated "Advocate."

So here the Bible clearly states WHO the Comforter is.

1 John 2:1 ¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

If any man sin, we have an advocate [parakletos = Comforter] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." God has plainly revealed that Jesus Christ is our Comforter.

The Lord is that Spirit

Wait a minute, does not the Bible say that the Comforter is the Holy Spirit?

John 14:26 ²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

It most certainly does. Who is the Holy Spirit? Inspiration declares:

2 Corinthians 3:17 ¹⁷ **Now the Lord is that Spirit:** and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

The Lord is that Spirit, yet who is the Lord?

1 Corinthians 8:6 ⁶ **But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.**

This could be expressed in the form of mathematical equations as:

Jesus Christ = the Lord The Lord = That Spirit Therefore: Jesus Christ = That Spirit

Ephesians 4:4 further states:

Ephesians 4:4 ⁴ **There is one body, and one Spirit.....**

There is only one Spirit, and the Bible tells us that that Spirit is our Lord Jesus Christ, or more specifically the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He received from His Father.

Galatians 4:6 ⁶ **And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.**

What exactly is a Spirit? According to the Strong's Concordance, along with many other Greek Dictionaries, a spirit is a "mind.

When God sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, He was sending the mind, or thinking of His Son into our hearts. God asks us to

Philippians 2:5 ⁵ **Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

The mind, or Spirit, that Christ had was the Spirit of His Father.

John 3:34 ³⁴ **For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.**

Let us examine further what the Bible says about a spirit.

The Biblical Concept of "Spirit"

Mark 2:8 ⁸ **And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts?**

Jesus perceived [Greek: ἐπιγινώσκω] - epiginosko "to know, that is to understand" in His Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus is where He knew and understood things. The Spirit of Jesus is the mind of Jesus.

Ezekiel 11:5 ⁵ **And the Spirit [Hebrew: j^Wr - ruwach #7307 in Strong's Concordance]of the LORD fell upon me, and said unto me, Speak; Thus saith the LORD; Thus have ye said, O house of Israel: for I know the things that come into your mind [ruwach], every one of them.**

In this verse ruwach was translated “spirit” in one place, and “mind” in another. Clearly you can see that the spirit of an individual is the mind or thinking of that individual. As we see in these next text.

Isaiah 40:13 ¹³ Who hath directed the Spirit of the LORD, or being his counsellor hath taught him?

Romans 11:34 ³⁴ For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

Job 26:4 ⁴ To whom hast thou uttered words? and whose spirit came from thee?

When we utter words, we are revealing whose spirit we have. We either have the spirit of the world, or the spirit of God, which is Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 ³⁰ And grieve not **the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Some people maintain that “the Holy Spirit,” and “the Spirit of God” are two different things. As you can see from the preceding verse, this is not the case. The Bible speaks of “The Holy Spirit of God.” God the Father has a Spirit.

Matthew 10:20 ²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Jesus Christ has a Spirit.

Philippians 1:19 ¹⁹ For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Does the Holy Spirit have a Spirit? Some say yes, while others say no. What saith the Scriptures?

The holy Spirit of God Ephesians 4:30

The Bible nowhere mentions “the Spirit of the Holy Spirit.” Why is that? Could it be that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God the Father and His only begotten Son? As the Scriptures plainly state, the Father has a Spirit and His Son has a Spirit, yet there is “one Spirit.” Evidently the Father and His Son share the same Spirit while they are two separate individuals.

This is true because they think alike; they have a kindred spirit. The Father anointed His Son with His own Spirit. Therefore, they have the same Spirit.

Hebrews 1:9 ⁹ Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

John 3:34 ³⁴ For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

As is plainly shown, the Father and the Son share a Spirit. What type of Spirit do they share? Surely, it is a Holy Spirit. The Bible mentions several different types of Spirit.

We read about “foul spirit,” “evil spirit,” “unclean spirit,” “dumb spirit,” “excellent spirit,” “humble spirit,” “wounded spirit,” “broken spirit,” “haughty spirit,” “faithful spirit,” “good spirit.”

All these spirits are distinguishable by the adjective that describes them. We know that God the Father has a Spirit, and can that Spirit be anything else or anything less than Holy? The word “Holy” is an adjective in every case, whether in English or in Greek. “Holy Spirit” is not a name, but a description of the Spirit of God.

We know that God the Father has a proper name, which is “YHWH,” otherwise known as “Yahweh” or “Jehovah,” and His only begotten Son has a proper name, which is “Yahshua,” or “Jesus.” May I ask, what is the name of the Holy Spirit?

Our Comforter

Time and space forbid going into more detail, but the real issue is “who is our Comforter?” The Bible says our Comforter is Jesus Christ, who is able to comfort us in all our temptations because He was tempted just like us.

Hebrews 2:18 ¹⁸ For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [or help] them that are tempted.

Colossians 1:27 ²⁷ Christ in you, the hope of glory:

1 John 4:4 ⁴ because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

John 16:8

Because Jesus has suffered being tempted, and comes to us in a different way than He ever did before, He can truly be called, “another Comforter.” Jesus said, “I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you.”

The Holy Spirit was to come and convict the world of sin.

John 16:8 ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

Acts 3:26 ²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities

It is Jesus, after His resurrection, who comes to us to turn us from sin. Would you rather have a Comforter who knows what you are going through because He has been there Himself, or one who cannot empathize with you?

Some may immediately say, “Jesus called the Comforter ‘he,’ therefore he must be someone else.” However, it was not uncommon in Christ’s day to speak of yourself in the third person. You find this style of writing throughout the New Testament.

John 5:19-22 ¹⁹ Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loveth the Son, and sheweth him all things that himself doeth: and he will shew him greater works than these, that ye may marvel. ²¹ For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will. ²² For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

Luke 18:8 ⁸ Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Jesus spoke of Himself in the third person.

Epistle Salutations

Fifteen out of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament start out with a greeting similar to this one.

2 John 3 ³ Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Out of all these greetings, none of them mention a third being. Just two are mentioned, the Father and His Son. Surely if there were a third being who is to be equally worshipped and adored, the writers of the New Testament would have included him in these greetings, but alas, there is not one to be found.

John explains to us with whom we are to have fellowship. He says,

1 John 1:3 ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Surely if John were acquainted with a third God, he would want us to have fellowship with him as well, but there is no mention of another being. John further states:

2 John 9 ⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

“Both” means two, and only two. This agrees with Zechariah.

Zechariah 6:12-13 ¹² And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: ¹³ Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be **between them both.**

Reasoning with the Jews, Jesus said:

John 8:17-18 ¹⁷ It is also written in your law, that the testimony of **two** men is true. ¹⁸ **I am one** that bear witness of myself, **and the Father** that sent me beareth witness of me.

If an additional being could testify in His behalf, Jesus would not have hesitated to mention him here. Paul declared:

1 Timothy 5:21 ²¹ I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

Paul called the heavenly agencies to witness this charge given to Timothy. Notice who Paul called as a witness for him. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are naturally the first ones to be mentioned, but Paul did not stop here. He called all the angels of God to be his witnesses also.

Certainly if Paul knew of a third being who is coequal with the Father and His Son, then he would have mentioned him in this verse. Yet there is no hint of another being, which is plain evidence that Paul knew nothing about a third god.

We could go on with this as there is an abundance of Scripture which plainly shows this.

1 Corinthians 8:6 ⁶ But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

Not a pantheon of gods in the Godhead.

The subject we are discussing is of vital importance. Please take the time to examine this in detail. The only way a judge can make a just decision is by viewing and weighing all the evidence. I strongly encourage you to examine all the evidence before making a decision.

Proverbs 18:13 ¹³ He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.

The Wonderful Gift of the Holy Spirit

Consider something for a moment. Suppose you had many places to go, and you did not have any transportation or way to get around, except to walk. Now suppose that someone gave you a nice, new car so you can get around easier. They park the car in front of your house, and slide the keys under your door with a note explaining that this new car is a gift for you. If you ignored the note, and did not realize the car was yours, and continued walking wherever you went, would you get any benefit out of the gift? Of course not! The only way a gift can be beneficial is if the gift is recognized, accepted, and put to use.

God delights in giving good gifts to His children. James wrote:

James 1:17 ¹⁷ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

God has given us many good gifts but, sadly, they are not always recognized, accepted, or utilized.

The best gift that God ever gave is the gift of His only begotten Son, whom He gave to die for our sins, that we might live forever.

John 3:16 ¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Yet, that gift would be of little effect for us if He had not given us another gift.

In His final discourse to His disciples, the night before His death, Jesus told His disciples about another gift that would be given to help them after His departure. Jesus said:

John 14:15-16 ¹⁵ If ye love me, keep my commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

The purpose of the gift of the Comforter is that He may abide with the disciples forever. This was excellent news to the disciples, for they were sad to hear of Christ's soon departure. Jesus continued His discourse, stating that He would send "the Spirit of truth;

John 14:17 ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Jesus said that the world could not receive the Spirit of truth, because it did not see him nor know him. Just like the gift of the new car that mentioned earlier. The world cannot receive the good gift of the Comforter, because it does not recognize this gift. It does not see that this gift is available to them, nor does it know the Person who is the Comforter.

Immediately following this explanation Jesus said something startling. He told His disciples, **"but ye know him."** How could the disciples know the promised "Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit," (v. 26) if Jesus had not yet prayed for the gift, and it evidently had not yet been given? John stated:

John 7:39 ³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Every time in the Bible where you find the term, "Holy Spirit," it should have been translated "Holy Spirit." Sometimes the translators of the Bible chose to translate *pneuma agion* into "Holy Spirit," and other times they translated the same phrase as "Holy Spirit." Holy Spirit is the most accurate translation, and we will use it throughout this article.

Jesus explained:

John 14:17 ¹⁷but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Who was dwelling with the disciples? Jesus, of course! Jesus explained that soon this Person who was dwelling *with* them would be *in* them. It certainly would be better for the Comforter to dwell *in* the disciples rather than dwelling *outside* of them, and that is exactly what Jesus said a short time later.

John 16:7 ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Jesus said that His disciples would be better off if He left them, went to His Father, and sent the Comforter to dwell *in* them. He also pointed out that the coming of the Comforter depended upon His departure, and glorification. As long as Christ was living on the earth as a man, it was not possible for this promised Comforter to come to live in the disciples.

As we continue reading in John 14 we find that Jesus did not end His conversation in verse 17. In the next verse He said:

John 14:18 ¹⁸ **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

This sheds a great deal of light on the subject. It explains why the Comforter could not come until after Christ went away and was glorified, for Christ said that He, Himself, would come back to His disciples to comfort them.

Let's continue reading Christ's discourse to see if He reinforced this point. He went on to say:

John 14:19-20 ¹⁹ Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. ²⁰ At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and **I in you.**

A few moments earlier Jesus had said to His disciples that the Comforter "shall be *in you*." Now, Jesus says that when the Comforter comes, "Ye shall know that ***I am in you***."

Jesus assured His disciples that He would not send someone else to comfort them, but that He would come Himself to be their Comforter. Isn't that beautiful! The disciples had become close friends of Christ; so close that John felt comfortable leaning on His bosom. It was a comfort to them when Christ was near.

Now Jesus tells them some wonderful news. He tells them that after He goes to His Father, He would come back to them as the Comforter, and they would know that it was ***He*** who was dwelling in them—they would recognize that the same Person who was dwelling ***with*** them was now ***in*** them, by His Spirit.

Next, Jesus said something that caused one of His disciples to inquire of Him how this could take place. Jesus said:

John 14:21-23 ²¹ He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. ²² Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, **how** is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? ²³ Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**

To remove any possibility of being misunderstood, Jesus made it abundantly clear that after He left the world, He would come back to make His abode in the hearts of His disciples. Not only would ***He*** return, but ***His Father*** would come with Him, so that both of them would live in the hearts of His children, not physically, but by God's Spirit.

In this way, the disciples could have intimate communion and fellowship with both the Father and His Son. John emphasized this when he wrote:

1 John 1:3 ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly **our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

John expressed this lovely truth of *both* God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, living in us in several other verses. He wrote:

2 John 1:9 ⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the **Father and the Son.**

In 1 John 2:22-23 he wrote:

1 John 2:22-23 ²² Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the **Father and the Son.** ²³ Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also

“It is truly a blessing to have personal fellowship with both the Father and His Son, and I am very thankful that God has made this available to us.

The Promised Comforter

As Jesus was about to ascend to heaven, He commanded His disciples to do the following:

Acts 1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

Jesus pointed His disciples forward to the day when the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon them with great power. He continued:

Acts 1:8 ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The disciples waited in the upper room at Jerusalem for the Spirit to be poured out, as promised.

Then it came, and they preached the gospel of Jesus Christ with power to the many Jews who were assembled at Jerusalem. Concerning the outpouring of the Spirit, Peter said:

Acts 2:32-33 ³² This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The gift that was poured out at Pentecost is still available to us today, and we can have it if we recognize and accept it. Yet, the gift of the Holy Spirit was not always available in the same way.

In fact, the Bible tells us that God has provided something better for us, than He did for all those who lived before Christ came to this earth. We read about this in Hebrews chapter 11. After giving an account of the mighty faith of the patriarchs and prophets, the chapter ends by saying:

Hebrews 11:39-40 ³⁹ And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: ⁴⁰ **God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.**

That is wonderful! God has provided something better for us, than He provided for all those mighty men and women of faith in Hebrews. They all died without receiving the promise of the Comforter that Jesus spoke about in John 14 and in Acts 1.

Now please do not get this wrong, the Holy Spirit was working upon the hearts of people long before the day of Pentecost, helping them to overcome sin. The Patriarch David wrote:

Psalms 51:11 ¹¹ **Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.**

This shows that the Holy Spirit was at work before Christ came to earth. Not only that, but to be more specific, the Bible says that the Spirit of Christ worked in Old Testament times. Peter wrote about the prophets:

1 Peter 1:10-11 ¹⁰ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: ¹¹ Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The Spirit of Christ was living in the prophets, long before the day of Pentecost, but, according to Scripture, there was something special about the coming of the Comforter at Pentecost; something different and better than had ever been poured out before. Let us read about this better gift.

Something Better

In Hebrews 2:18 we find the key that explains what was better about the Pentecostal outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It says:

Hebrews 2:18 ¹⁸ **For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour [help] them that are tempted.**

Here is the answer! This is something better that is available to us, today, that could not have been available to the prophets of old. Even though the Spirit of Christ lived in the prophets, Christ had not yet been tempted, and therefore He could not help them in the same way that He can help us now.

The word “succour” in this verse was translated from the Greek word *bohqwew*, which means, “to aid, to relieve, to help,” and, as *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* puts it, it also means, “to run to the cry of those in danger.” What a lovely definition! The verse is telling us that because Christ has suffered and been tempted, He is able to come to us swiftly to help us, when we cry unto Him for help with our temptations.

The Bible says:

[Psalms 50:15](#) ¹⁵ And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.

When we are being tempted, we are in serious trouble, and if we call upon the Lord for help, He will come to our aid immediately, and give us the victory we so desperately need. Christ is able to do this for us in a way that He could not do it for the prophets of old, because today, He has already experienced what it is like to be tempted. This is why Jesus called the Comforter, “*another* Comforter.”

The Greek word *allos*, which was translated “another” in this verse was used in the Greek version of the Old Testament, in 1 Samuel 10:6. Here, it says of Saul:

[1 Samuel 10:6](#) ⁶ And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man.

Saul became *another* man, because of the experience he went through. Jesus became *another* Comforter because now He has experienced what it is like to be tempted.

Think about something for a minute. Suppose your teenage son died in a plane crash, and the next week, your spouse died in a car accident. Now suppose that someone came up to you and said, “I know exactly what you are going through,” even though they had never been through that experience. Would they be able to comfort you with these words? Certainly not! If they have never been through what you are going through, it is very hard for them to understand what you are going through, or how to help you through it.

The Bible says that Jesus Christ:

[Hebrews 4:15](#) ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Jesus Christ experienced what we are going through when we are tempted and, because of this, He is able to help us when we are tempted in a greater way than He could before He came to earth.

Praise the Lord that our Comforter knows what we are going through in our struggles with temptation. We are given a precious promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13. It says:

[1 Corinthians 10:13](#) ¹³ There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it

The way of escape that God has ordained for us is to call upon the Lord for help. Whenever we are tempted, if we call upon Him, He will help us. And God has promised that He has made this way of escape for *every* temptation. That old saying, “the Devil made me do it,” is absolutely false. The Devil cannot make you do anything. He can use strong enticements, but he can never force you to sin. There is always a way of escape, and our Comforter is eager to help us gain the victory. Jesus said:

[John 16:8](#) ⁸ And when he [the Comforter] is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

This is exactly what the Bible says Jesus would do when He comes back to us as our Comforter.

Galatians 4:6 ⁶ And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

And in the book of Acts we read:

Acts 3:26 ²⁶ Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

After God raised His Son from the dead, He sent His Spirit into our hearts, to bless us in turning us away from our sins. Jesus Christ is the best Person qualified to do this job:

Hebrews 4:15 ¹⁵ For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Praise the Lord that we have a Comforter who knows what we are going through in our struggles with temptation, and can help us through it better than anyone else. This is the gift that God is eager to give to all those who ask.

Luke 11:13 ¹³ If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

This is the precious gift:

John 14:17 ¹⁷ Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

The world does not recognize that this gift exists; they do not know who their Comforter is, and therefore, they cannot receive Him. Friends, God does not want you to be like the rest of the world, He wants you to know who your Comforter is, so you can receive the full benefits of this blessed gift. Jesus said:

John 14:18 ¹⁸ **I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.**

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is our Comforter. In fact, John told us exactly that in 1 John 2:1: Notice what he wrote here:

1 John 2:1 ¹ My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

The other four times paraklhtov was used in the Bible it was translated, Comforter.

What is a Spirit?

We have learned that God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts to comfort us, but what is a spirit? Some people think that a spirit is a Spirit, some bodiless phantom that floats around. Is this what God sends to the world to comfort us? Certainly not! According to *The American*

Heritage Dictionary, Spirit means: “The spirit of a dead person, especially one believed to appear in bodily likeness to living persons or to haunt former habitats.”

The Holy Spirit is not a Spirit as described above. Let us read the Bible and see what it has to say about a spirit, it makes it very clear. In the book of Job it says:

Job 32:8 ⁸ But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Daniel explained:

Daniel 7:15 ¹⁵ I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me.

A spirit is the part of a person that can be grieved. In Mark’s gospel we read:

Mark 2:8 ⁸ And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts

A spirit is the part of a person that can perceive or understand things. The king of Babylon had a dream, and he told his wise men:

Daniel 2:3 ³ And the king said unto them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit was troubled to know the dream.

A spirit is the part of a person that can be troubled. These few Bible texts confirm the definition of “spirit” found in *The American Heritage Dictionary*, which says, “The part of a human being associated with the mind, will, and feelings.”

Man has a spirit, but does God have a Spirit? Notice how Paul compared the spirit of man with the Spirit of God:

1 Corinthians 2:11 ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Here the spirit of man is likened to the Spirit of God. Just as man has a spirit, so God has a Spirit, and His Spirit, just as man’s spirit, is the part of Him “associated with the mind, will, and feelings.” The Holy Spirit is “the holy Spirit of God.”

Ephesians 4:30 ³⁰ And grieve not **the holy Spirit of God**, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Just as the spirit of man, God’s Spirit can be grieved or vexed. God’s Spirit belongs to God, just as our spirit belongs to us.

Suppose someone told you, “I know that we have met before, but have you ever met my spirit? I would like to introduce you to my spirit, he is sitting over there on that chair.” What would you think? You would immediately recognize that they had a twisted concept of what their spirit is. It is not some other person, separate and distinct from us.

My spirit is really me, your spirit is you, it is who we are. If I say, “My mother is very pleasant to be around, she has an excellent spirit,” you would suppose that I am talking about two persons?

Of course not, I would only be talking about one person, my mother, who has a pleasant personality and character.

Now notice how the term “Holy Spirit” is used in the Bible. Luke records a conversation that Jesus had with His disciples. Jesus said:

Luke 12:11-12 ¹¹ And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and unto magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say: ¹² For the Holy Spirit shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Matthew records this same conversation, but notice the different words he uses to describe the Holy Spirit:

Matthew 10:19-20 ¹⁹ But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. ²⁰ For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

Here we see that the Holy Spirit is called, “the Spirit of your Father.” This is very appropriate, because later Jesus said:

John 15:26 ²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

Here Jesus explained that “**the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit**” proceeds from the Father.

In other words, the Father is the source of the Holy Spirit, because it is His Spirit. Please do not get confused here. We saw earlier that Jesus Christ is our Comforter. Notice, in the verse we just read, Jesus said that He would send the Comforter, which comes from the Father.

This is just what Peter said on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:33 ³³ Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The Comforter comes from the Father, through the Son, to us.

Paul explained it this way:

Titus 3:4-6 ⁴ But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, ⁵ Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit; ⁶ Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

So we see that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father, which He sends to us through Jesus Christ, and when we receive the Spirit, we are receiving both the Spirit of the Father, and the Spirit of His Son. Two Persons come to live in us, and we have fellowship with *both* the Father and His Son.

Two Divine Persons

Some people get confused regarding the Holy Spirit, as if it was a third individual, separate and distinct from God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. | Lets notice some facts from the Bible.

There are 27 books in the New Testament. Fifteen of them begin with a greeting similar to this:

Galatians 1:3 ³ Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ.

Out of all of these greetings, not one of them mentions the Holy Spirit as a separate individual.

Revelation 1:4 mentions “the seven Spirits which are before [the Father’s] throne,” but this does not refer to a separate individual called, “the Spirit.” If so it would refer to seven individuals.

In Revelation 3:1 Jesus is said to have “the seven Spirit of God,” showing that the seven Spirits belong to God. Seven is a perfect number, indicating completeness. The seven Spirits of God represent the complete manifestation of God’s Spirit, rather than a separate individual from God, the Father.

When Jesus’ authority and truthfulness were challenged by the Jews, Jesus mentioned two individuals that bear witness of Him: **Himself, and His Father**. He said:

John 8:16-18 ¹⁶ And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me. ¹⁷ It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸ I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

If Jesus knew of a third divine being who could bear witness in His behalf, He would have mentioned him here, but He didn’t.

When Jesus spoke of the Jews who hated Him, He said:

John 15:23-24 ²³ He that hateth me hateth my Father also. ²⁴ If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father.

Jesus spoke repeatedly about **Him and His Father**, with no mention of another individual.

When Paul charged Timothy to observe the things that he had been taught, he called heaven to witness this solemn charge. He wrote:

1 Timothy 5:21 ²¹ I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality.

If Paul knew of a third divine individual, he would have mentioned him here, but he did not.

Instead, Paul would have injured this third person by not mentioning him, and to add insult to injury, he even mentioned the angels instead of him. Obviously Paul did not believe that a third divine person existed.

When John speaks of fellowship with divine persons, he only mentions two:

1 John 1:3 ³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly **our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.**

John also wrote:

2 John 1:9 ⁹ Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

Think about something for a moment. There are many places in the Bible where the Son speaks to the Father. There are also many places where the Father speaks to His Son. But, there is never any record that the Father spoke to a third person called, “the Holy Spirit.” Neither is there any record of the Son speaking to the Holy Spirit. Nor is there any record of the Holy Spirit speaking to either the Father or the Son.

Also, please consider something. We know that God loves us very much, because He sent His only begotten Son to die for our sins. We know that Jesus Christ loves us very much, because He came down to earth to die for us. But, if the Holy Spirit is a third individual, we have no way of knowing that he loves us, because he neither gave his son, nor gave himself.

In fact, he gave nothing for us, so his love is unrecognizable. Nor is there any verses in the Bible that speak of the love that the Holy Spirit has for us.

When Jesus spoke of God’s love, He always directed people to the love of the Father. Jesus told His disciples:

John 16:27 ²⁷ For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

Yet, Jesus never explained that the Holy Spirit loves us, as if the Holy Spirit was a third distinct individual from the Father and the Son.

Conclusion

The gift of God’s Spirit is one of the most precious gifts God has ever given to us. To receive the benefits of this gift as God intended, we must recognize it for what it is.

The gift of God’s Spirit is the impartation of His life in us, the means by which He and His Son can personally live in our hearts. The great blessing of the Pentecost experience is the reception of God’s Spirit coming to us with the added benefit of the Spirit of God’s victorious Son coming into our hearts to help us in our struggle against sin and temptation.

Satan would like you to think that Jesus Christ is not in us, but that He sent someone else to take His place. Friends, that is an invention of Satan, specifically designed to take away your hope of glory. Paul wrote:

Colossians 1:27 ²⁷ To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Don't let anyone take away this hope, this precious gift of Christ in you. If a gift is not recognized, it will not be utilized. Take full advantage of the ministry of Christ in your behalf; let Him come into your heart, and do a work that only He can do.

Ask Christ into your heart, and He will come in, and bring His Father with Him. Jesus says to you now:

Revelation 3:20 ²⁰ Behold, **I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.**

Let Him come in, and you will be glad you did. We have all sinned, but when you open the door of your heart to Him, He will gladly come in.

No matter how wicked you may be or have been, Jesus has promised that He will accept you if you come to Him. He said:

John 6:37 ³⁷ All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; **and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.**

Come to Him now, accept Him as your Saviour, and accept the gift of His Spirit into your life to help you in your struggle with temptations. You will never, never be sorry you made this decision.

Revelation 20:20 ²⁰**Even so, come, Lord Jesus.**