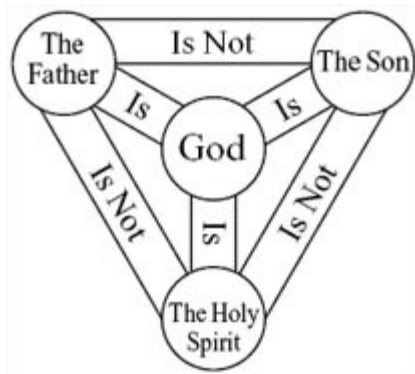


*“Life in the Spirit” Conference*



**2 Corinthians 3: 4-6** And we have such trust through Christ toward God. **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves but our sufficiency is from God**, who also made us sufficient as ministers of the “New Covenant”, not of the letter but of the Spirit ; for the letter kills, but the **Spirit gives life! Amen!**

Paul had no self confidence in what he could do but his confidence was in the sufficiency of the Holy Spirit who gives life and empowers ministry. The great blessing and promise of the New Covenant of Christ is the Holy Spirit Who is given to us in our hearts. We receive the Holy Spirit and His inward power, enabling us to live for God, serve God, and follow His ways.

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is not a vague, ethereal shadow, nor an impersonal force that fills the universe. **He is a divine person or divine being equal in every way with God the Father and God the Son (Jesus Christ).**

**The Holy Spirit as a Divine Person:** Every pronoun used in reference to the Spirit is “He” not “it.” John 16:13 When the Spirit of Truth comes **He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority... He will declare to you the things to come... He will glorify me...**

**The Holy Spirit is God:** Acts 5:3-4 Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? **You lied to the Holy Spirit** and you kept some of the money for yourself...How could you do a thing like this? **You weren't lying to us but to God!** 2 Cor. 3:16, 17 But whenever someone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. **For the Lord is the Spirit**, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

He is considered to be the third person of the Godhead. **Not three Gods but one God eternally existing in three persons...**A triune God. The fullness of the Trinity is far beyond human comprehension but it is unquestionably how God has revealed Himself in Scripture—as **one God eternally existing in three Persons.**

**Think Of The Trinity in This Manner:**

**The Father’s Outstretched Arms:** Irenaeus, a church father of the second century, has given us an image for the unity of the Trinity. Picture God the Father reaching out with two arms. One is Christ, through Whom He reached out to redeem the world by Christ death on the cross. The other arm is the Holy Spirit, convincing us of Christ’s atoning death and our forgiveness; providing us with the faith to respond. **With the two arms the Father draws us to His heart.** Both arms are crucial. Without the arm of the Holy Spirit, it is impossible for us to appropriate what the arm of Christ has done and does for us today.

Jesus said to His apostles...“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt. 28:18-20)

**A divine mystery:** The doctrine of the Trinity; God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and all the divine characteristics ascribed to the Father are equally ascribed to the Son and to the Holy Spirit ... His goodness, His graciousness, His Holiness, His love, His Omnipresence, Omnipotence, etc.

#### **Is the Holy Spirit in everyone’s life?**

Yes and NO! Everyone has the Holy Spirit working in their life in various ways and means. Yes, the Holy Spirit is in the World at large today influencing and working to bring people to Christ. He is in everyone’s life being that He is in the world working upon the hearts of men to convict them of sin; particularly the sin of unbelief in Jesus Christ and convince them of their need of Christ’s righteousness, and a judgment to come.

NO, He does not abide in the heart of every human being; only those who receive Christ as Lord and Savior.

**Romans 8: 9, 10** But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone DOES NOT have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

#### **The Holy Spirit’s Work in the World:**

**John 16: 8-11** And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, of sin because they do not believe in Me...

#### **The Convicting Work of the Holy Spirit is Seen Here:**

**Acts 2:36** “Peter preaching on the Day of Pentecost” ... “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were **cut to the heart** (felt conviction), and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “..., what shall we do?”

When the Truth was preached there was a **positive response to the Spirit’s conviction** and a turning to faith in Christ.

I believe God chases you down, putting you in situations and with people that will present the Truth of God’s love to you and will cause you to make a decision whether or not you will receive the Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

### **Convicting Work of the Holy Spirit but a Refusal to Accept Jesus:**

Apostle Paul speaking before King Agrippa in Acts 26:27, 28 King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you do believe.”<sup>28</sup> Then Agrippa said to Paul, “You almost persuade me to become a Christian.” Here King Agrippa refuses to accept the convicting influence of the Holy Spirit when Paul preached to him.

**Now Peter’s response to the crowd on the day of Pentecost was: “Repent”,** and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. “For the promise is for you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”

**Repentance:** In the Bible, the word “repent” means “to change one’s mind; to think differently” To repent, in relation to salvation, is to “**change your mind in regard to Jesus Christ**”. Peter is calling the people who rejected Jesus (Acts 2:36) to change their minds about Him, to recognize that He is indeed “**Lord and Christ**” (Acts 2:36). Peter is calling the people to change their minds from rejection of Christ as the Messiah to faith in Him as both Messiah and Savior.

This kind of repentance leads to faith in Christ and brings about what is called a “Born Again” experience... Being born of the Spirit (John 3:3) ... Becoming a child of God (John 1: 12, 13) ...Becoming a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17) ... Having the Holy Spirit dwell in you (Galatians 4:6)... Having a divine life in God (2 Peter 1:3, 4). Now you are alive in God! **The Holy Spirit takes residence inside of you; not just working from the outside but living in the inside!**

**1 John 5:1** Everyone who believes (adheres to, trusts, and relies on) the fact that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah) is a “born-again” child of God...

### **Being Born Again:**

**John 3: 1-7** This is what Jesus was talking about to Nicodemus who was a very prominent religious ruler and teacher among the Jews. He taught and explained the

Law which was the Bible at that time but he had no spiritual life in him (was spiritually dead) ... He was not born again or born of the Spirit.

**You Must Be Born Again: John 3: 1-14**

**John 3:1-7** There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again**, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘**You must be born again.**’

**The New Birth Experience:** Outside of being spiritually “born again” we are spiritually dead. Man must be forgiven of sin and made alive in God through faith in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is given to dwell in us when we believe. He gives us spiritual life! He gives us eternal life!

**1 Corinthians 6:19** Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?

This new spiritual life is imparted to the believer through the indwelling Holy Spirit, which is the mark of a New Testament Christian.

**The New Testament Promise: Ezekiel 36:26, 27** I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

- **“The Ministry of the Holy Spirit” in a Believer’s Life is given in detail in John 14, 15, 16.**

**John 16: 7** However, I am telling you nothing but the truth when I say it is profitable (good, expedient, advantageous) for you that I go away. Because if I do not go away, **the Comforter will not come to you; but if I go away, I will send Him to you** (to be in close fellowship with you).

Apparently, Jesus considered it **more important** for His disciples that the **Holy Spirit be given to them**, than He in His bodily presence be with them! Jesus was geographically limited by His incarnation. But the Comforter **would dwell in each believer** and have a worldwide ministry through them.

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit:**

**John 14:15-18** If you really love Me you will keep My commandments. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you **“Another Comforter”** that **He may remain with you forever.** **“The Spirit of Truth”**, whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart)... But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you **and will be in you.** **I will not leave you as orphans...** comfortless, desolate, bereaved... **I will come back to you.**

He did not actually leave the early disciples. He departed as the suffering Christ, only to come again in the person of the Holy Spirit.

**John 14, 15, 16...** Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as the **1.Comforter** (Gr. word Parakletos) and as the **2.Spirit of Truth.**

**Comforter** conveys the consoling, strengthening, encouraging, and helping work of the Holy Spirit in our heart which the unbelieving world does not receive.

**Spirit of Truth** points to the teaching, revealing, and reminding work of the Holy Spirit within the believer’s mind. He ministers both to the needs of our heart and our head!

The promised Comforter was given in a permanent sense. He **abides in you** and **remains with you forever.**

**John 14: 26** But the **Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost**, 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.

**John 16: 13-15** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, **He will guide you into all truth... He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me...**, for **He will take of what is Mine (love, joy, peace, etc.) and reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.... !**

### **A Brief Look at the Wonderful Work of the Holy Spirit in a Believer’s Life:**

1. He is the “Life Giver”... He births Spiritual Life in Us. **John 3:3**

2. He is the Person of the Godhead Who **“Remains with us Forever”**. .. John 14:16
3. He **“lives in us”** .... Close fellowship with us.... John 14:17
4. The Spirit of Truth...He **Teaches** all things.... John 14:26
5. The Spirit of Truth... Who **Brings to Remembrance** “The truth” of God’s Word... John 14:26
6. He **convicts** the world of sin, God’s righteousness, and the coming judgment... John 16:8
7. He **Guides** Believers into all the Truth ( the whole and full Truth) ....John 16:13
8. He **Reveals** to us things to come in the future.... John 16:13
9. He **honors and glorifies** Jesus by taking the things that are Jesus’ and reveals (declares, discloses and transmits) it to us! ... John 16:14,15
10. The Spirit of Truth.... He **testifies of Jesus** (gives us evidence and proof Jesus in our life).... John 16:26
11. He is our **Comforter** (**parakletos: one who is called alongside especially to ones aid**) (Counselor, Helper.... Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener and Standby) ... John 14:26
12. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness; Intercedes or prays on our behalf according to God’s will... **Romans 8:26,27**
13. He is a **Spiritual Gift Giver**.... 1 Corinthians 12 :7-11 All these gifts are brought to pass by one and the same Holy Spirit who apportions to each person as He chooses.
14. He is a **Fruit Producer in our life**... Galatians 5:22, 23 The fruit of the Spirit is Love....
15. The Holy Spirit **Seals the Believer**... Eph. 1: 13, 14 The sealing of the believer brings out the thought of ownership. You personally belong to God and you are His child.

**Comforter: Gr. wd. Parakletos of God’s people: The origin of its meaning or more literal understanding: One called alongside to give help... ...paráklētos (from 3844 /**

pará, "from close-beside" and 2564 /kaléō, "make a call") - **One called to one’s aid...**  
as in a court room of law...

**Comforter:** The modern understanding of the word “comforter” is not adequate to describe the wonderful ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life. We think of a comforter as one who simply consoles in time of sorrow. The Spirit does do this but He not only consoles us in our sorrow, but rather He gives strength, encouragement and victory over our sorrows in life.

The Holy Spirit is the **Comforter (Parakletos)** of God’s People: This word “Parakletos” in Greek has so many positive meanings it is difficult to describe in one word.

The Amplified Bible describes the Greek word “Parakletos” as **Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthener, and Standby.**

**He is the One to support you; to strengthen you; to help you; encourage you; speak on your behalf to God; and to counsel you.**

**To Comfort:** Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary .... All these beautiful definitions fit the work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life:

1. (v. t.) To make strong; to invigorate; to fortify; to corroborate (support).
2. (v. t.) To assist or help; to aid.
3. (v. t.) **To impart strength and hope to; to encourage;** to relieve; to console; to cheer.
4. (n.) Assistance; relief; support.
5. (n.) Encouragement; solace; consolation in trouble; also, that which affords consolation

**Practical Ways God Comforts Us Through The Holy Spirit:**

1. He Comforts us by the presence of and encouraging words of other believers in Christ. 2 Cor. 7:5-6.... He will send the right people to us... maybe a phone call, a visit, a letter, a friendship.... Etc. Paul was comforted by the coming of Titus and his good news.
2. He Comforts us by the Words in His Holy Scriptures... Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and **comfort of the Scriptures** might have hope. The Bible is filled with words of comfort and encouragement. Many of these scriptures are written below.

3. He Comforts us by speaking personally within our own heart in a time of need as we pray and wait upon the Lord. He reveals truth, teaches, reminds, instructs, and guides us personally in God’s way. He is an intimate Holy Spirit. He will speak to your heart. When we obey His voice we receive comfort. John 14:26; John 16:13
4. He comforts us through the release of His Presence upon us when others lay hands and pray over us and for us. ... When His anointing is released and received in our lives we are comforted.

**Comfort through the Holy Scriptures: It is a great idea to memorize as much scripture as possible.**

Deuteronomy 31:8 The LORD Himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. (NIV)

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go. (NIV)

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (NIV)

Psalms 27:1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? (NIV)

Lamentations 3:25 The LORD is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; (NIV)

Luke 12:7 Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (NIV)

John 14:1 Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. (NIV)

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. (NIV)

John 16:7 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. (NIV)

Hebrews 13:6

So we say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?" (NIV)



Isaiah 41:10 "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand" (NLT).

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.] (AMP)

Romans 8:28: "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

Romans 8:37-39: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Philippians 4:6: "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done" (NLT).

Hebrews 13:5: "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (NKJV).

2 Corinthians: 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and **God of all Comfort**, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

*My friends,*

*May the person and presence of the Holy Spirit become ever so real to you day by day! Daily seek the Lord through prayer and His Word and confidently depend upon the Holy Spirit to be your Helper. Ask for His comfort, strength, help and encouragement in every area of your life. Pray that you may walk with Him closely and talk to Him as a dear friend. Strive to please Him; and be careful to never grieve Him.*

*“Life in the Spirit” Women’s Conference January 2015*

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*Depend on Him to be your “Comforter” like never before. What a treasure of all treasures we have in Him!*

*Love You in Christ,*

*Diane Waghorne*