

John 15-16: The Advocate, the Holy Spirit

The Big Idea

The Gospel of John gives us a different view of the Holy Spirit's role in our Christian walk. The Paraclete (also translated Advocate, Helper, Comforter) is the one sent from the Father to bring us into truth and to bring contrast to a flattened world regarding sin, righteousness and judgment.



In the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit is a force that launches the church in a dynamic way, and continues to push the church outward as it grows from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. In the Gospel of John, the Holy Spirit, or the *paraclete*, plays a more personal role of guiding the disciples into the truth and convicting the world of its failure to believe in Jesus.

Opening Discussion: Have you ever had a time when you were struggling with a decision and desperately wanted God's input? What was that decision? How did you process what to do? How did you find God's presence?

John 14:12-21, 25-27

¹²Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

¹⁵"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. ¹⁷This is the Spirit of truth, whom the

world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

¹⁸ "I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. ¹⁹ In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. ²⁰ On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. ²¹ They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

²⁵ "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. ²⁶ But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 15:26-27

²⁶ "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. ²⁷ You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning.

John 16:4b-15

"I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵ But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' ⁶ But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; ¹¹ about judgment, because the ruler of this world has been condemned.

John 20:19-23

²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

The Holy Spirit is closely connected with the resurrected life of Jesus himself. How does the Spirit bring you new life and connect you to Jesus?

Have you had the experience of the Spirit guiding you to a truth you would not have found otherwise?

In a world that sometimes seems flattened and hopeless, how does the Spirit's work of proving the world wrong about sin, righteousness and judgment bring contrast and hope?