

# Presence of the Holy Spirit

## Counselor

*John 14:15-27*

### Participant's Guide

Just as God breathed his Spirit into the void to set creation in motion, so also he breathed/inspired scripture. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All scripture is God-breathed (NIV) or inspired (NLT, NKJV) and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." That's all well and good, but sometimes scripture is difficult to understand and we need an interpreter, a teacher, and a guide.

### Paraclete

Jesus explained that he was petitioning the Father to give his followers an advocate/helper/comforter (depending on your translation).

The Greek word used here is

parakletos (paraclete). It literally

means someone who is called to come alongside someone else. In Ancient Greek culture this would have been the family attorney. His job would be to support the family by counseling them, interceding for them, and advocating for them. He would explain the details of the law to them and help them navigate any confusion to find the truth.



Read John 14:15-17.

- If the Holy Spirit is our paraclete, what is he supposed to do for us? Why do we need a paraclete?
- Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would be with (abide with, dwell in, be

present with) his disciples forever. Why is this such a significant promise?

- How can we connect to our indwelling counselor? What would you suggest to someone who is struggling and needs God-breathed advice?
- There is a saying that you cannot have justice or freedom without truth. Do you agree? What prevents some people from seeking the truth? Why is truth so hard to find? How might the Holy Spirit help someone find the truth?

## Holy Presence

The Greek word used for orphan can also mean bereaved, comfortless, as well as fatherless. Jesus was anticipating his death and knew they would feel alone and left behind.

Read John 14:18-20.

- Would Jesus' words have comforted his disciples? Think of a time when you were left behind by someone you loved or felt very close to. How did you feel?
- How does knowing that the Holy Spirit is always within you provide comfort?
- In verse 19, where Jesus said the world "will not see him anymore," other translations say "doesn't have eyes to see," "doesn't know what to look for," or "isn't looking." Why won't the world see him?
- In our world today, how would these statements apply?

## Proof of Love

We are admonished to not only love Jesus but to love his commands. Loving and keeping his commands becomes the proof that we love him. The Greek word translated as keep or obey is *tereo* which means to guard, keep an eye on, hold fast to, or serve.

Read John 14:21-24.

- In verses 15 and 21 Jesus said to keep his commands. How do the meanings above help clarify what Jesus means in these verses? How do you put them into practice in your life?
- The Message translates Jesus' words in verse 23 as "a loveless world is a sightless world." What does this mean to you? Why is the world blind to Jesus?
- Read Acts 7:48-53. How did Stephen explain to the High Council and the other Jewish leaders why they cannot understand Jesus' teaching about the law? Why

was the Holy Spirit unable to dwell in them? Where do you see evidence of that in our world today?

- Read Romans 8:5-8. What does it mean to have a mind governed by the Holy Spirit? How does the Holy Spirit guide you?

## Counseled by the Holy Spirit

Jesus left the Holy Spirit behind not only so we would not be alone, but also so we would always have help within us.

Read John 14:25-27.

- What were the duties of the Holy Spirit for the disciples after Jesus was gone?
- Read 1 Corinthians 2:12-15, Ephesians 1:17, and 2 Thessalonians 2:13-15. What did Paul say the Holy Spirit provides for believers?
- Perhaps the biggest advantage from receiving the Holy Spirit is found in John 14:27. How do you tap into this peace when you are afraid or troubled? How would you advise a friend who was feeling that way?

## Pray for Counsel

William and Gloria Gaither wrote a hymn in 1964 called “Come, Holy Spirit.” Read the words of the hymn below and circle the gifts of the Holy Spirit’s presence that you value most today. Then say a silent prayer asking the Holy Spirit to use those gifts to transform your body, mind, and soul. (*YouTube video link is in Resources*)

### **Come, Holy Spirit**

By Gloria and William Gaither

Come as a wisdom to children, come as new sight to the blind,  
Come, Lord, as strength to my weakness, take me: soul, body and mind.  
Come as a rest to the weary, come as a balm for the sore,  
Come as a dew to my dryness: fill me with joy evermore.  
Come like a spring in the desert, come to the withered of soul;  
O let your sweet healing power touch me and make me whole.  
Come, Holy Spirit, I need you, come, sweet Spirit I pray;  
Come in your strength and your power, Come in your own gentle way.

## Resources


### Books

- Brand, Draper, England, ed., *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers, 2003)
- Gregory, S.W and Gregory, D. *Getting to Know the Holy Spirit: Study Guide* (Evansville: Vortex Publishing, 2017)
- Ryrie, Charles C. *The Holy Spirit* (Chicago: Moody Publishing, 1997)
- Strong, James, *The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance Of the Bible* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1996)
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Flying Closer to the Flame* (Dallas: Zondervan Publishing House, 1993)

### Online

- <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/browse/search?query=Holy%20Spirit>
- [www.enduringword.com](http://www.enduringword.com)
- [www.bible-history.com](http://www.bible-history.com)

### Music

-  [Come Holy Spirit](#)