

God the Spirit (part 4 of 4 on the 'Trinity.')

John 16:13 (New American Standard Bible)

<sup>13</sup> But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

2 Corinthians 3:17 (New American Standard Bible)

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.**

Romans 8:26 (New American Standard Bible)

Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words;

## Introduction

According to the Church calendar, we celebrate today as the Day of Pentecost. 50 Days after Christ's resurrection. 2000 years ago, after spending 40 days with His disciples, the risen Christ was ascending into Heaven in front of their eyes. He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for God's promise from above. About 120 disciples were gathered in one place and devoted themselves to prayer. Ten days later, the gift of God, the Holy Spirit fell upon them. And they started praying and praising God--all in foreign languages, a.k.a. tongues (Acts 2). That was the Day of Pentecost. That day the Church was born. Pentecost is the birthday of Christ's Church. Pentecost is the day of God's Spirit descending upon God's people. Without the Holy Spirit, there will be no Pentecost.

Today, we will finish our sermon series on the 'Trinity.' We will learn about God the Spirit. Like the other Persons in the Trinity (Father/Son/Spirit), we never fully fathom who the Spirit of God is, what He is like, and what He does. However, this morning, based on my study of the Scriptures, I will point out the three-fold identity of God's Spirit: **Counselor, Liberator, and Intercessor.**

## Content

**Counselor:** Concerning the Holy Spirit, Jesus says this: *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you* (John 14:26). The Spirit of God is our Helper and Guide on our heaven-bound journey. God knew that His children on earth need a Guidance Counselor who would lead them safely into Heaven. So, He appointed His Spirit to be that Helper who would guide us into all truth. God's will for us is clear: to bring us safely home. When we faithfully follow the Holy Spirit's teaching and guidance, we will securely arrive at God's presence in Heaven.

The Holy Spirit speaks and teaches us nothing but the truth. Once again, Jesus says, <sup>13</sup>*But when He, **the Spirit of truth**, comes, He will guide you into all the truth;* (John 16:13). We cannot separate the Holy Spirit from the truth. Neither can we separate Him from God's Word. Nothing untrue is found in God's Spirit.

By the way, the Holy Spirit is not your own conscience nor your own inner voice. E.g., New Age teaching misleads many people by saying so. *Obey your inner voice*, one brochure says, *that is the Holy Spirit*. No. Nothing can be untrue than that. Beware of the inner voice, because it can come from the devil who disguises himself as the Holy Spirit and deceives you big time (John 13:2). Discern well. How? With God's Word. Test every destructive, negative, lustful, or revengeful inner voice against God's Word. Why God's Word? Because the Holy Spirit never contradicts Himself or disagrees with either God's Word or Jesus' teaching.

Here's an example. Let's say you harbor a thought in your heart to get revenge against someone who had done you wrong, not just once, but multiple times. All the hurts and wounds in you cry out for a swift revenge. This inner voice keeps whispering to you, *"Go ahead. Do it, do it right away! He deserves it!"* However, this is where your spiritual discernment comes in. That inner voice is not from the Holy Spirit. Rather, very likely, from the devil himself.

You see, the Holy Spirit never prompts you to avenge yourself nor allows you to go with your angry emotions. Neither does He urge you to be mean to those who persecute you. Remember He is the Spirit of truth. He abides by God's truth alone, God's Word only. His instruction manual is One Book, the Bible. What does the Bible say about your enemies? Bless them and leave your vengeance to God, not to your hands. So, check your feelings against God's Word: if you see any contradiction between your thoughts and the Bible, stop immediately. Remember God's Spirit never contradicts Himself with God's own Word, the Truth.

We don't have to worry about God's Spirit whether He does a great job or not. Rather, ask yourself if you are a good student. A good student remembers the lessons, keeps them in their hearts, and put them into practice. Do you want to be a good student? Are you willing to listen, learn, and obey? The Holy Spirit never bothers teaching those who are not interested in obeying God's voice. In fact, it is a sad reality today that many a believer silence the Holy Spirit in them with their own stubbornness and unwillingness to listen. Have mercy on us, O God.

**Liberator:** Paul the Apostle was sitting in a Roman dungeon. He was waiting for a trial due to the gospel he preached. While in prison, he wrote a letter to the Christians in Philippi expressing his desire to get out of the prison: *for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* (Philippians 1:19). He asked for their prayer support for release. But he also knew that his liberation

from prison wouldn't come unless there was help from the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is the Liberator. He sets us free.

If I had to choose one word to summarize the core of Christianity, I would choose the word: freedom. Now *the Lord is the Spirit, and **where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom*** (2 Corinthians 3:17). I have freedom in Christ. Because the Spirit of the Lord is within me, there's freedom in my heart, therefore, I am free. Because of what He has done for me, I am free indeed from the bondage of sin and death. I am forgiven. I am free of guilt and shame in Christ. I am free from fears, worries and anxieties. All because of what Christ has done for me. God has given us the Spirit of freedom not *a spirit of timidity* (2 Timothy 1:7). We are free in Christ.

If you struggle with any types of bondage or slavery, either physical or spiritual, or any type of addiction, and if you would like to be free from them, take God's deliverance pill that has 3 ingredients: *Desire (hope) + Prayers + Holy Spirit = Deliverance* (Philippians 1:19-20). For your deliverance, first, you need to desire to be free. Next, pray fervently for God's help. Finally, the Holy Spirit helps. The Spirit of God has one mission for us: to make us free in Christ and transform us into the image of Christ: *we all are being transformed into His image with ever increasing glory* (2 Corinthians 3:18). Until it is done, the Spirit of God will never stop working on us and within us.

**Intercessor:** *Now in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know what to pray for as we should, but **the Spirit Himself intercedes for us** with groanings too deep for words; (Romans 8:26).* How comforting to know this truth! The Spirit of God helps us in our weakness. He never stops praying for us even when we don't know what we ought to pray for ourselves. If you ever feel that nobody cares, think again. God does. Jesus does. So does the Spirit of God. If you ever feel that no one in the world prays for you, think again. The Holy Spirit without stopping makes a case on your behalf. Even now. He whispers to God's ears, "Please have mercy on (put your name here)! S/He doesn't know what s/he is doing." Since every intercession from God's Spirit is made according to God's will, all the intercessions for you and me will be answered affirmatively.

If you ever wonder what He is praying for you, here are some examples of His prayers for you. First and foremost, He prays for your salvation in Christ. Next, He prays for your transformation into Christ's image, bringing you one step closer to Christ every day. Third, He prays for you to do God's will in your life: be thankful in all circumstances, pray without ceasing, and rejoice always in the Lord. He prays for you to hunger for God's Word and to thirst for the knowledge of God every day. He prays for you to love the Lord with all your heart, mind, strength, and might. He prays for you to love your neighbors as yourself. He prays for you even to love your enemies.

He further intercedes for you so that you may persevere in your prayers without giving up. He prays for you to watch and pray so as not to fall into temptation. He prays that you seek God's Kingdom and His righteousness first. He prays for you that Christ's

peace may dwell and rule in your heart. He prays for your inner strength to do God's will. He prays for you to be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. He prays that the Lord will guide you into His truth every day. He prays that you will abstain from sinful desires that wage war against your own soul. He prays that you would walk in God's truth and His ways. The list goes on. All of them will be fulfilled in your life.

## **Conclusion**

The Spirit of God is a counselor, liberator, intercessor, and sanctifier. Thank God for giving us the Holy Spirit. You have Him in your heart. Until Christ's image is fully realized in us, He will keep working on us and within us. We can count on Him. Praise God. Amen.