

God's Spirit within

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

John 15:26

²⁶"When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. ²⁷And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

Who is the Holy Spirit? This verse is a good starting point.

1. First, he is sent by Jesus.
2. Second, he comes from the Father
3. Third, he is the Spirit of truth. In the same way as Jesus is the truth, the Holy Spirit is the truth.
4. Fourth, He is a counsellor or advocate. The Greek word *paraclete* carries both meanings.
5. Fifth he will testify about Jesus.
6. Sixth, we join with the Holy Spirit in evangelism rather than the Holy Spirit supporting us. He will convict of sin and righteousness and judgement. We are often simply called on to add words of life to what the Holy Spirit is doing.

I have no idea how you perceive the Trinity but, if I read what Jesus said correctly, The Father, the Son

and the Holy Spirit have the same characteristic and work in total unison.

What matters for today's subject is that the Holy Spirit is sent by Jesus and comes from the Father. This should be a great comfort to us. You see Jesus, when he was on earth was in one place at any one time. He is now in heaven, with the Father – our advocate in heaven. But Jesus promised to be with his disciples to the end of the age and beyond. How? By sending the Holy Spirit from the Father. If you have put your faith in Jesus, you have received the Holy Spirit. He is present in your living room just as he is present in the church building. You are never alone. Even when you feel alone. Faith is believing that The Holy Spirit is with me now. So say to yourself and everybody who is with you

“The Holy Spirit is with me, NOW!

Father

we thank you for the many blessings we have received in Christ. The forgiveness of sins, the life everlasting, the hope of heaven but this morning we rejoice in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Speak to us , encourage us, guide us that we may walk in your presence every step of our lives. Thank you Jesus, that you are with me and everyone else who knows you as Saviour and Lord.

Amen.

He is the Spirit of Truth.

John 14:26

But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

When you open your Bible or, find a Bible online, what you have is words on a page. But those words come to life when the Holy Spirit teaches you how they apply in your life. So when you have your daily Bible reading, and I hope you do find some time in the day to listen to God. When you do, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal himself to you. Not a theological fact but himself, a living person who has loved you before the dawn of time. Every day, invite the Holy Spirit to fill you up to overflowing with Jesus. That way you will know the truth and the truth will set you free, because you will want what the Holy Spirit wants.

He is the counsellor or advocate or paraclete.

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Now I want to put that verse with 1John 2:1

*My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Got it? At the place of judgement, Jesus is not only your barrister but also your atonement. Your plea is understood rightly because the Holy Spirit understands what is actually on your heart and expresses that with great passion. I find all that a bit overwhelming. So much of what is said about God is about him condemning sin we easily lose sight of this great fact. In Jesus, God is on our side and the Holy Spirit knows what we are actually trying to say!

Now doesn't that liven up your prayer life?

Finally he will testify about Jesus.

Understand this. God chooses to use us as his fellow-workers by, often, using what we say to be his words of life to others. But you may not know when that is happening because you are not aware of what the Holy Spirit is doing in someone else's mind.

So you are never more 'in the Spirit' than when you are telling others about what Jesus has done. That is important to understand . I'm one who stumbles in expressing the wonderful truths of God's salvation to others. But its not me at work that matters, what matters is the Holy Spirit is seeking the lost and opening their hearts and minds to this wonderful good news we have received, that Jesus died for our sins and offers us salvation by grace alone through faith alone.

His character can be best understood by the fruit he grows in the life of God's people. He is loving,

joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful and self-controlled. As in Galatians 5:22

He is everything God is so we can rest in God's love knowing that he will be true to his character. As we draw close to Jesus and are filled with the Holy Spirit, we will express these characteristics of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control more in our lives.

Time does not allow us to explore the character of the Holy Spirit in depth but I will add notes on my website if you want to explore further. We know, the Holy Spirit has feelings, intentions and will and discretion, that he loves communicates teaches and prays. How he was present in Jesus life. He is essential for the church.

But I want to end with the words of Jesus.

“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?” (Luke 11:13).

The message of Christmas could be summed up as Immanuel, God is with us. Today says that is not just a Christmas message from long ago but a living reality in the world in which we live, today, tomorrow and the rest of your life. God has poured our his Holy Spirit in our hearts so that he can dwell in us. That is what he wants to do. That is the best gift of all from the best Father of all. Receive the Holy Spirit afresh today to arm yourself against

loneliness and equip yourself to be part of the action in the salvation of others.

Additional Notes on Who is the Holy Spirit?

– The Holy Spirit is a person.

1. Being a person, the Holy Spirit has feelings. He can become sad or angry, and others can insult Him and blaspheme against Him (Is 63:10; Mt 12:31; Ac 7:51; Eph 4:30; Heb 10:29).

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. - Isaiah 63:10

And so I tell you, every kind of sin and slander can be forgiven, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. - Matthew 12:31

“You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! - Acts 7:51

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. - Ephesians 4:30

How much more severely do you think someone deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified them, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace? - Hebrews 10:29

2. He has intentions, shows wilfulness and discretion, loves, communicates, testifies, teaches, and prays (Neh 9:20; Jn 15:26; Ac 13:2; Rm 8:26,27; 15:30; 1Co 12:11). These are qualities that distinguish Him as a person.

You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst. - Nehemiah 9:20

When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father—the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father—he will testify about me. - John 15:26

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” - Acts 13:2

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. - Romans 8:26-27

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. - Romans 15:30

All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.
- 1 Corinthians 12:11