The Believer's Best Friend & Closest Companion

(The Holy Spirit: Our Comforter)
John 14:16-26
7-27-2025

Introduction:

*** Believers in Christ: You are not alone; You have a friend who sticks closer than a brother!**

Observe eight features of the Blessed Holy Spirit who lives in your heart!

I. ***The Holy Spirit is*** **<u>PERSONAL</u> (not an impersonal force)**
["he" (v.16)…"him" (v.17)…"teach you" (v.26)]

II. ***The Holy Spirit is*** **of the <u>SAME NATURE</u> AS JESUS CHRIST** (v.16a)
("another" = another of the same kind)

III. ***The Holy Spirit*** **<u>WALKS WITH US SIDE BY SIDE</u> AS OUR SOUL ENCOURAGER** (v.16b) *("comforter")*

IV. **The Holy Spirit <u>ABIDES</u> WITH US <u>ALWAYS & FOREVER</u>** (v.16c)
("abide with you forever")

V. ***The Holy Spirit*** **IS THE <u>TRUTH</u>, TELLS THE TRUTH, & GIVES THE TRUTH** (v.17a)
("the Spirit of truth")

VI. ***The Holy Spirit*** **<u>EXCLUSIVELY INDWELLS</u> ONLY BELIEVERS** (v.17b)
("the world cannot receive…ye know him…and (He) shall be in you")

VII. ***The Holy Spirit*** **is in essence – <u>JESUS CHRIST</u> IN SPIRIT FORM** (v.18-20)
("I will come to you"…"I in you")

VIII. ***The Holy Spirit*** **is our <u>TEACHER</u> OF THE WORD OF GOD, WHO BRINGS GOD'S WORD INTO <u>REMEMBRANCE</u>** (v.25-26)



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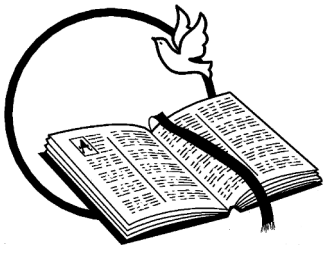
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Introduction: Today, we will learn about the Blessed Holy Spirit of Jesus Christ.

Woven in the Context: The importance of obeying the commands of Jesus Christ! Specifically the commands to Serve and Love one another

Obedience is the submission of your will to someone else

Obedience to Christ is the PROOF of our LOVE
(v.15, 21a)

Obedience to Christ brings the special PRESENCE of the LORD
(v.21b-23)

The Enabler for obedience in light of Christ's departure:
The Holy Spirit

These commandments (v. 15) can only be kept by the power of the Holy Spirit (v. 16ff).

Joh 15:5 I am the vine, ye [are] the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

*** Believers in Christ: You are not alone; You have a friend who sticks closer than a brother!**

Observe eight features of the Blessed Holy Spirit who lives in your heart!

I. ***The Holy Spirit is*** **<u>PERSONAL</u> (not an impersonal force)**
["he" (v.16)…"him" (v.17)…"teach you" (v.26)]

The way in which Jesus speaks about the Spirit demonstrates that He is a Person not an impersonal force (like electricity or gravity).

The Jehovah's Witnesses cult views the Holy Spirit as a mere force or influence. But Jesus describes Him as a person with personality, as evidenced by:

--The personal pronouns used to speak about Him ("He" v. 16 . . . "Him," "Him, "He" v. 17. . . "I" v. 18. . . "He" v. 26.

The activities Jesus describes the Spirit doing also give evidence that He is personal:
--Comforter (v. 16)
--Truth bearer (v. 17)
--Indwelling resident (v. 17)
--Teacher (v. 26)
--Reminder (v. 26)

The Biblical demonstration of the personality of the Holy Spirit can be developed along several lines.

1. The Holy Spirit is referred to with masculine PRONOUNS

   a. The Greek Word for "spirit" is pneuma; it is a neuter word

   b. According to the normal rules of Greek grammar, all pronouns to which pneuma served as an antecedent would be neuter pronouns.

      However, the New Testament again and again uses masculine pronouns in referring to the Spirit.
      The point: "The pronoun is masculine to emphasize the fact that the Holy Spirit is a person and not a thing" (Pache, p. 13)

   c. This is true with reference to three different types of pronouns in the Greek New Testament.

      1) Demonstrative pronouns ("this," "that") (Jn. 16:13, 14)
      2) Relative pronouns ("who") (Jn. 15:26; Eph. 1:14)
      3) Personal pronouns ("He") (Jn. 16:7, 8)

   d. "These departures from the normal rules of grammar in connection with the use of several kinds of pronouns are significant proofs of the real personality of the Holy Spirit" (Ryrie, p. 15)

      The Holy Spirit is always referred to as "He" never "it."

   Christ always spoke of the Holy Spirit as a Person and never as a thing or a mere influence (John 14, 16)

2. The Holy Spirit performs ACTS which can be performed only by a person.

   That is, several actions are attributed to Him which could not be accomplished by an impersonal "power, influence, or thing."

   a. He teaches and brings to remembrance (Jn. 14:26)
   b. He testifies of Christ (Jn. 15:26)
   c. He convicts (demonstrates the guilt, proves culpability) the world of sin (Jn. 16:8)
   d. He guides into all truth, by hearing, speaking, and showing (Jn. 16:13)
   e. He "bore along" the writers of Scriptures, and He speaks through their writings (II Pet. 1:21; Acts 1:16)
   f. He spoke to Philip, commanding him to go to the eunuch (Acts 8:29)

g. He called Barnabas and Saul to the ministry (Acts 13:2), and sent them forth in their journeys (13:4)
h. He forbade Paul and Silas to travel to northern Galatia (Acts 16:6, 7)
i. He makes intercession for believers (Rom. 8:26)
j. He bears witness with our spirits (Rom. 8:14)

3. The Holy Spirit possesses the essential ATTRIBUTES of personality

a. He possesses intellect (knowledge)

1) He is capable of thought; Paul speaks of searching the "mind of the Spirit" (Romans 8:27)
2) The Spirit knows and searches the things of God (I Cor. 2:10, 11)
3) He has the ability to utilize language, or words (I Cor. 2:13)

b. He possesses emotion
1) He can be grieved (Eph. 4:30)
2) He loves (Rom. 15:30)

c. He possess a will
His gifts are distributed as He wills
(I Cor. 12:11)

4. The Holy Spirit can be TREATED like a person.

That is, many of the actions spoken of as performed upon or against the Spirit could not be performed against an impersonal power or influence. For instance, the Spirit can be:

a. Lied to (Acts 5:3)
b. Tempted (Acts 5:9)
c. Resisted (Acts 7:51)
d. Grieved (Eph. 4:30)
e. Outraged (Heb. 10:29)
f. Blasphemed (Mt. 12:31)
g. Called upon (Ezek. 37:9)

II. ***The Holy Spirit is*** **of the <u>SAME NATURE</u> AS JESUS CHRIST** (v.16a)
("another" = another of the same kind)

"Another" – *allon* (meaning another of the same kind). Not *heteros* (as in Gal. 1:6) – another of a different kind.

The Islamic faith interprets this "another comforter" as Muhammad, the so-called prophet who they say came as a replacement for Jesus Christ. The end of verse 16 would nullify this possibility because it says that He would "abide with you forever." Muhammad was never with the disciples to whom Jesus spoke; nor did he remain forever, but died and did not rise from the dead.

The Holy Spirit was sent by the "Father" in the "name" of the Son (v. 26) and is clearly associated with the Father and Son in such a way as to properly categorize Him as the third Person of the Godhead.

III. ***The Holy Spirit*** **<u>WALKS WITH US SIDE BY SIDE</u> AS OUR SOUL ENCOURAGER** (v.16b) *("comforter")*

"Comforter" = *parakleton* (from *para* – alongside or beside; and *klesis* – to call or summon) – Hence, the Holy Spirit as our *paraclete* is the One summoned by Jesus Christ to accompany the believer as our <u>helper</u> or <u>advocate</u> (our defense attorney – 1 John 2:1), our <u>encourager</u>, our <u>companion</u> or <u>advisor</u>, our <u>strength giver</u> or <u>interceder</u>.

When the Holy Spirit is allowed to minister in the life of a Christian, He gives him the following <u>abilities</u>:

1) The ability to <u>worship</u> (Jn. 4:24; Phil. 3:3).
24 God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

2) The ability to <u>pray</u> with wisdom (Eph. 6:18; Jude 20).
18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

3) The ability to <u>understand God's Word</u> (I Cor. 2:10-12, 2:14; Eph. 1:17).
17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

5) The ability to <u>love</u> God (Rom. 5:5).
5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

6) The ability to <u>love</u> others (Col. 1:8; Rom. 15:30).
8 Who also declared unto us your love in the Spirit.
30 ¶ Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in *your* prayers to God for me;

7) The ability to have <u>unity</u> with other believers (Eph. 4:3).
3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

8) The ability to <u>conquer sin</u> (Rom. 8:13).
13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live

9) The ability to <u>be strong</u> in the "<u>inner man</u>" (Eph. 3:16).
16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;

10) The ability to be <u>virtuous</u> (Gal. 5:22) (the Spirit produces internal "fruit").
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

11) The ability to live life <u>without fear</u> (II Tim. 1:7).

7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

12) The ability to be <u>encouraged</u> ("comforted" - Acts 9:31).

31 Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied

13) The ability to have <u>boldness in witnessing</u> (Acts 4:8, 31).

8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,…31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

14) The ability to serve God in <u>full-time ministry</u> (Acts 20:28).

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

It is the Holy Spirit who "<u>calls men</u>" to the ministry (Ex. the pastorate - Acts 20:28).

15) The ability to <u>preach</u> God's Word with divine <u>power</u> (I Cor. 2:4).

4 And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

IV. The Holy Spirit <u>ABIDES</u> WITH US <u>ALWAYS & FOREVER</u> (v.16c)
("abide with you forever")

"Abide" – to remain; to stay

"Forever" – lit. into the ages

The Lord Jesus in physical form would be leaving, but as He says in verse 18, "I will not leave you comfortless." Lit. "I will not leave you orphans (*orphanous*); you will not be children of God left without the presence of your Father!

One of the best proofs for the eternal security of the believer is the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit (Note: His sealing ministry as the "earnest of our inheritance" – READ Ephesians 1:13-14 and 4:30).

The Spirit is not here today and gone tomorrow (His power may be limited due to sin but His presence will never depart).

When Jesus (in the Great Commission) says, "I am with you always," this promise is fulfilled by His Holy Spirit.

V. ***The Holy Spirit*** **IS THE <u>TRUTH</u>, TELLS THE TRUTH, & GIVES THE TRUTH** (v.17a) *("the Spirit of truth")*

"The Spirit of truth" –

John 15:26
But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13
Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

1 John 4:6
We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

The Bible is clear that the sin-cursed world contains:

--lying <u>spirits</u> (demons) (Rev. 16:13-14)

--spirits of <u>divination</u> (deceivers)

--the spirit of <u>error</u> (1 Jn. 4:6)

But the Holy Spirit only leads in one direction: TRUTH (see: Doug MacLachlan's teaching on truth)

Truth is 100% conformity to reality; ultimate reality is God. In a world of mirages, false images, false information, deception, lies, hypocritical people, etc., it is good to know that there is One who promotes the truth.

VI. ***The Holy Spirit*** **EXCLUSIVELY INDWELLS ONLY BELIEVERS** (v.17b)
("the world cannot receive…ye know him…and (He) shall be in you")

'World" = *cosmos* (the unregenerate system of Satan).

"Cannot receive" – lit. is not able to receive. Why not? Because the world:
1) does not see the Spirit; and 2) does not know the Spirit

"The world is governed by the sense. Since the Spirit cannot be seen nor comprehended by reason, He remains outside the world's conscious experience (cf. 1 Cor. 2:9-14)" (Wycliffe Bible Commentary, p. 1,105).

The world functions based on what is experienced by the five senses.

If the Spirit could be seen, it would take no faith to trust Him. Believers simply accept God's Word about the Spirit and function based on God's promises about Him.

The world does not personally know Christ, and therefore cannot know His Spirit.

"He that dwelleth with you (prior to Pentecost) **and shall be in you** (from Pentecost onward)" (Acts 2ff).

The Holy Spirit's relationship toward believers was different under the Old Testament economy than it is today in the Church Age.

a. Key text: John 14:17 - "He (the Spirit) dwelleth with ("para") you, and shall be in ("en") you."

b. The Holy Spirit's relationship to the Old Testament saint was one of an abiding presence (He was "with" or "upon" them).

   The Holy Spirit's relationship to the New Testament saint is one of an indwelling presence (He is "in" us).

c. The Holy Spirit's intimate indwelling was a future promise (not experienced by the Old Testament saint) (Ezek. 36:27; 37:14; Jn. 14:17).

The Holy Spirit's ministry was different under the Old Testament economy, than it is today in the Church Age.

Note: This does not mean that God changes, but simply that His methods of dealing with men did change.

Certain specially chosen Old Testament saints experienced the Spirit coming "upon" them.

Examples:

1) Moses and the Seventy Elders (Num. 11:17, 25-26)
2) The Judges
   --Othniel (Judges 3:10)
   --Gideon (Jud. 6:34)
   --Jephthah (Jud. 11:29)
   --Samson (Jud. 13:25, 14:6, 19; 15:14)
3) King Saul (I Sam. 10:6, 10:10, 11:6)
4) King David (I Sam. 16:13, 14)
5) The messengers of Saul (I Sam. 19:20)
6) Elisha (II Kings 2:15)
7) Amasai (I Chron. 12:18)
8) Azariah (II Chron. 15:1)
9) Zechariah (II Chron. 24:20)

The Spirit would come into certain Old Testament saints for specific purposes (Ezek. 2:2, 3:24) and then could be withdrawn (Psalm 51:11).

The Holy Spirit's ministry was, however, distinct from His ministry to the Church-age saint in these ways:

The Spirit was less intimately related to the Old Testament saint.

--The Old Testament believers had the Spirit abiding (with) them, whereas the New Testament believers have the Spirit indwelling (in) them).

--The New Testament terms "baptism" and "indwelling" cannot be applied to the Old Testament saint.

NOTE: The baptism of the Spirit was future (Prophetic) even from John the Baptist's day (Jn. 3:11). The promise of the baptism of the Spirit was not fulfilled until Pentecost (Acts 1:5, 8;
2:1-4).

VII. ***The Holy Spirit*** **is in essence – <u>JESUS CHRIST</u> IN SPIRIT FORM** (v.18-20)
("I will come to you"…"I in you")

v. 18
"I will not leave you comfortless" – lit. I will not leave you orphans (*orphanous)*.

"I will come" – Who will come? Jesus, in the Person of the Holy Spirit.

--How does Christ live in our hearts? By His Spirit
--How does Christ enable us to do all things? By His Spirit

"As surely as the Spirit would be with them and in them, so wold Christ. It would be impossible to differentiate the two, just as the Son and the Father are indivisible – 2 Cor. 3:17." (Wiersbe, p. 1105)

2 Cor. 3:17
Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

v. 19
"Because I live, ye shall live also" – in context this means: "Because I live in you (via my Spirit), you shall live also."

As Jesus says in verse 20: **"I in you."**

v. 20
"At that day" – At what day?

1) At the Day of Pentecost, when Jesus comes via the Spirit (v. 18)
2) At the Resurrection Day, when we rise to live eternally (v. 19)
3)

Names showing His oneness with the <u>Son</u>

a) "The Spirit of Christ" (Rom. 8:9)

b) "The Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:9; Acts 16:7)

c) "The Spirit of His [God's] Son" (Gal. 4:6)

VIII. *The Holy Spirit* is our TEACHER OF THE WORD OF GOD, WHO BRINGS GOD'S WORD INTO REMEMBRANCE (v.25-26)

v. 25
What Jesus taught His disciples would be forever lost or forgotten were it not for the Spirit, who would come and teach the meaning of Christ's words and works, and would remind the disciples of every detail that God wanted recorded in the sacred text of Scripture.

v. 26
"Teach you all things" – The Holy Spirit is our resident truth teacher.

1 John 2:20
But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 John 2:27
But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

The Holy Spirit teaches His disciples how to distinguish truth from error.

The Holy Spirit knows "the deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:10).

"All things to your remembrance" – This would be necessary for the New Testament Gospels to be written. The Spirit would remind the Gospel writers of the details about what Jesus said and did so that they would write an inerrant and infallible account of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ. All His teachings would be recorded.

Although this "reminding" in context deals with the Spirit reminding the 11 disciples about the words of Christ, the principle of the Spirit reminding the New Testament believer of God's Word still is a fact of reality. It is God's Spirit who brings to mind the exact Scripture we need when we need it.

Mt 10:20 For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.
Mr 13:11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

Conclusion:

The Lord Jesus Christ said to His disciples:

> "But ye shall receive power (ability) after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you . . ." (Acts 1:8)

a. The Holy Spirit's power, though often misunderstood and neglected is still available today!

b. The Christian life, which begins by the power of the Spirit, must also continue by the power of the Spirit (Gal. 3:3).

c. The Holy Spirit desires to daily commune with those He indwells (Phil. 2:1; II Cor. 13:14); He is jealous over His children (James 4:5); He wants to continually speak to His church (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22).

Hymn: Spirit of the Living God
(p. 247)